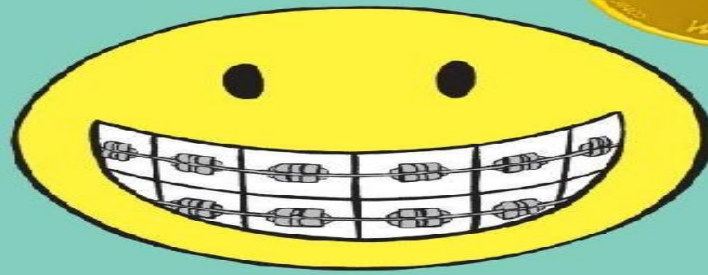


From the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author
Raina Telgemeier

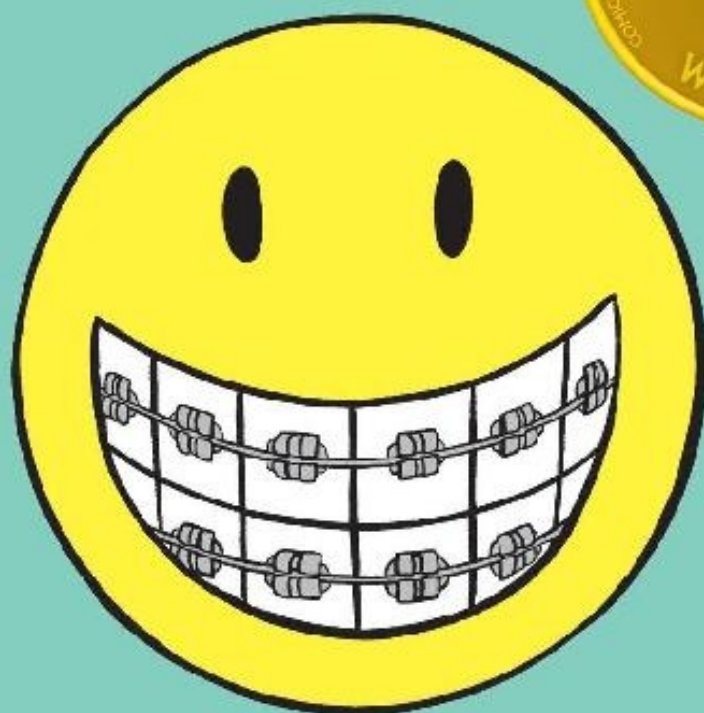


Smile

 SCHOLASTIC

From the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author

Raina Telgemeier



Smile

 SCHOLASTIC

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the research. It highlights the need for researchers to be sensitive to the values and beliefs of the communities they are studying. This is particularly important in the field of education, where cultural differences can significantly impact learning outcomes. The paper then moves on to discuss the challenges of conducting research in culturally diverse settings. It notes that researchers often face difficulties in establishing rapport with participants and in interpreting their responses. To address these challenges, the paper suggests several strategies, including the use of local informants and the development of culturally appropriate research instruments. The final part of the paper discusses the importance of ethical considerations in cross-cultural research. It emphasizes the need for researchers to obtain informed consent from participants and to ensure that their research does not cause harm to the communities they are studying.

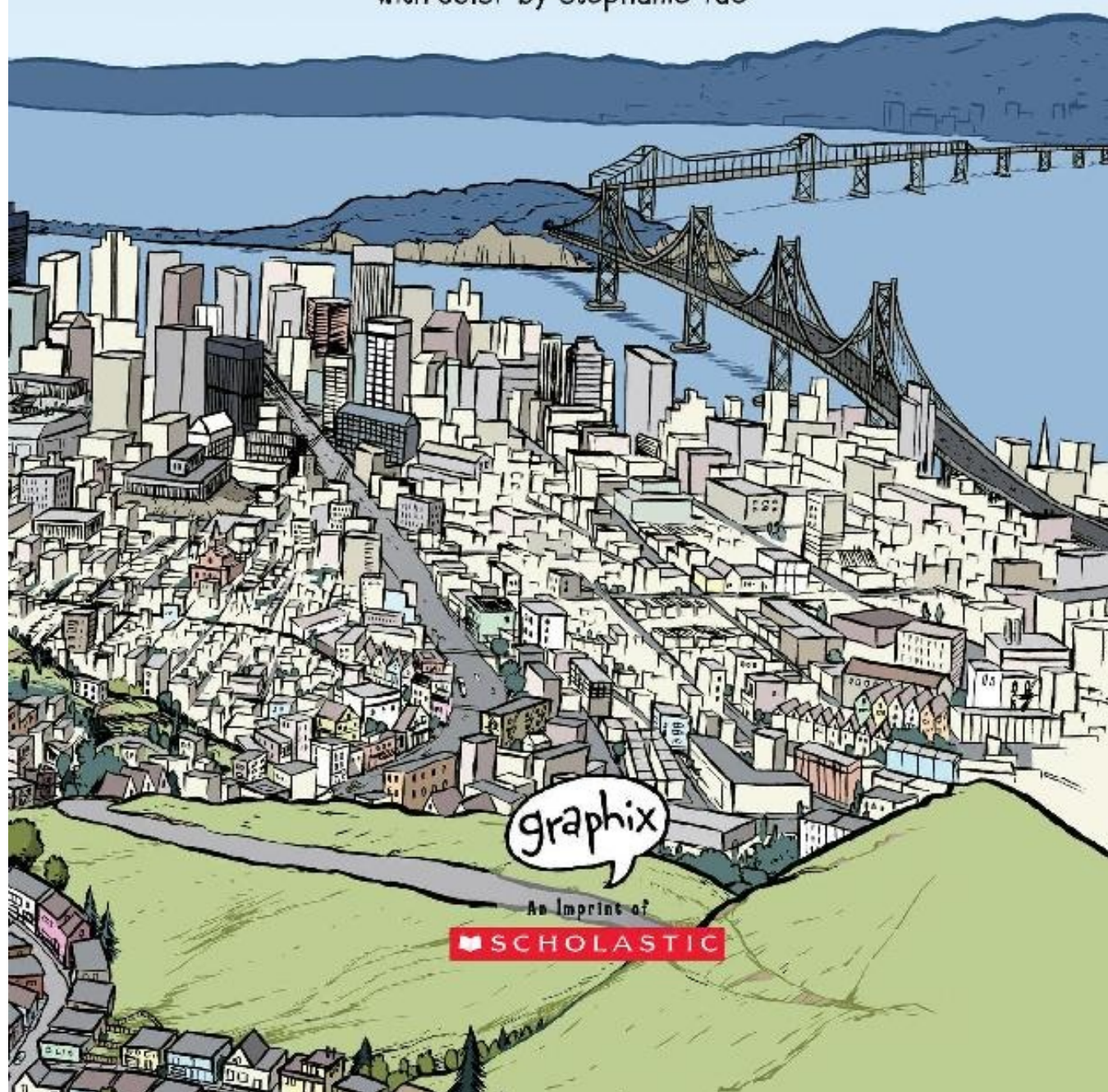
Smile



Smile


Raina Telgemeier

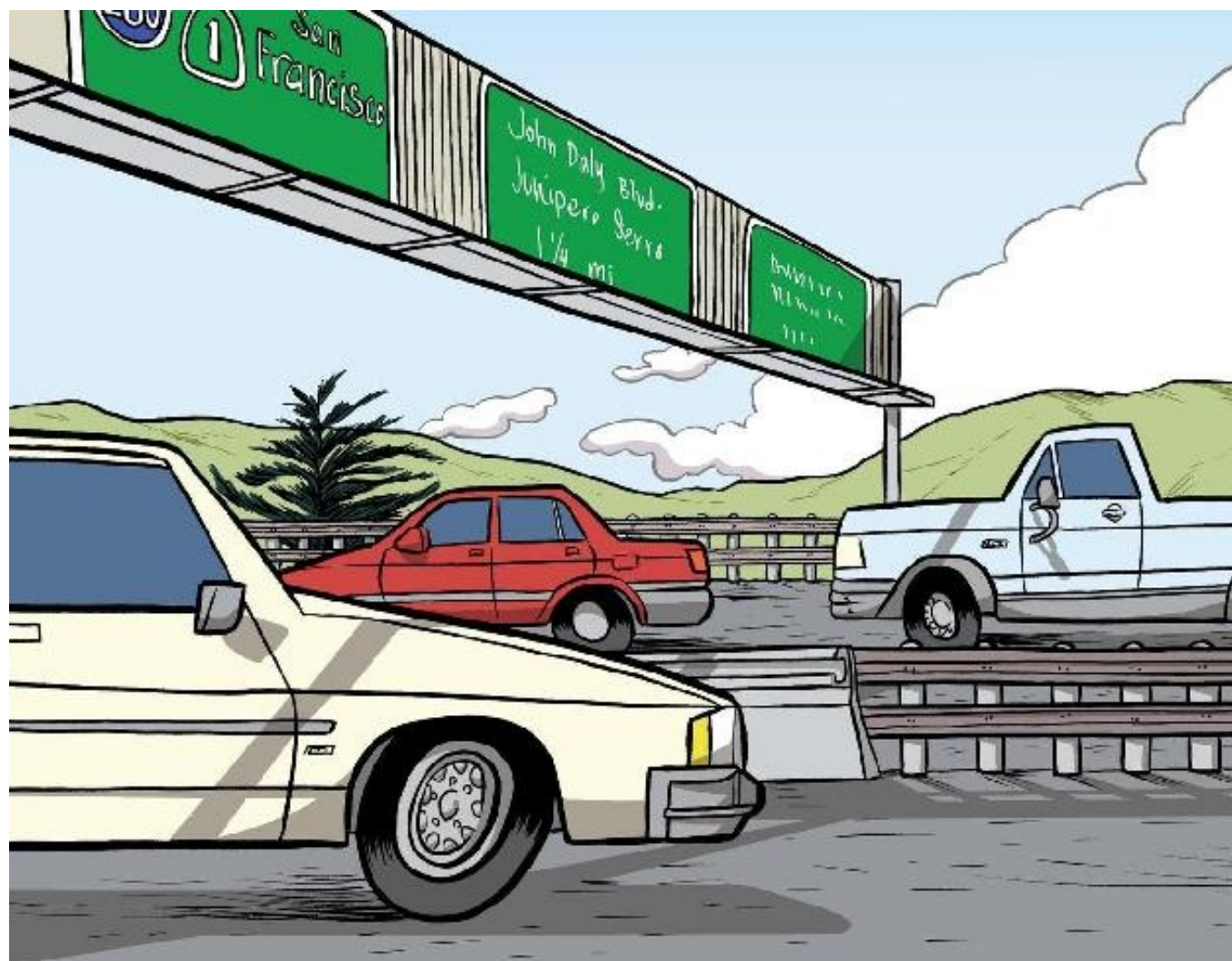
with color by Stephanie Yue



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An Imprint of

 SCHOLASTIC



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This graphic novel is based on personal experiences, though some names have been changed, and certain characters, places, and incidents have been modified in service of the story.

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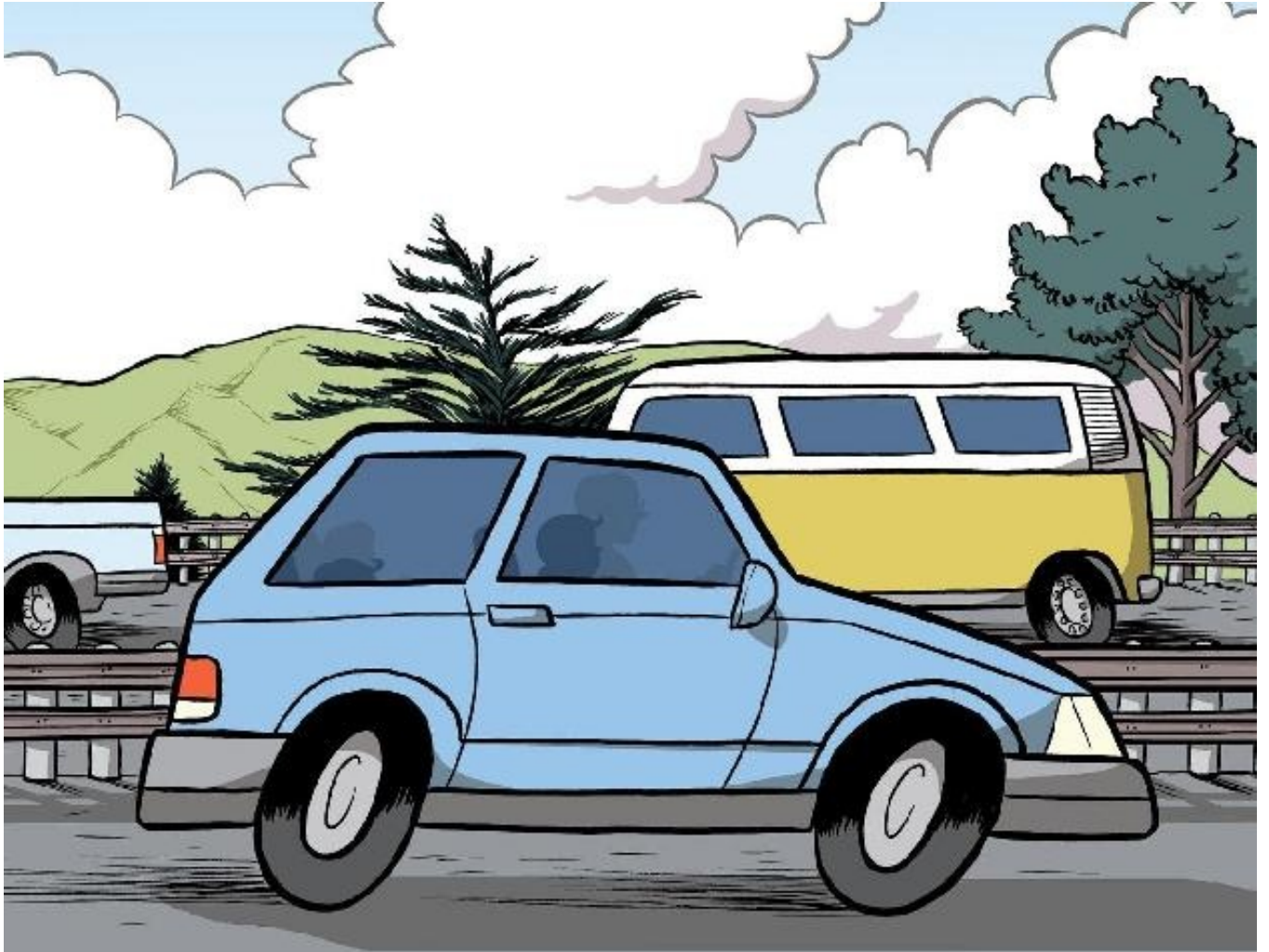
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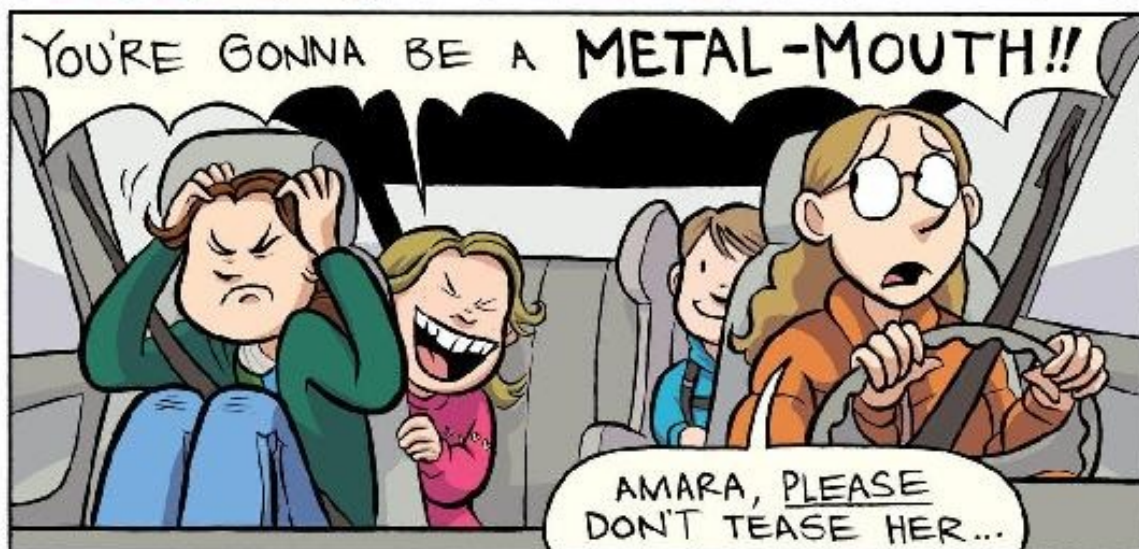


For Dave



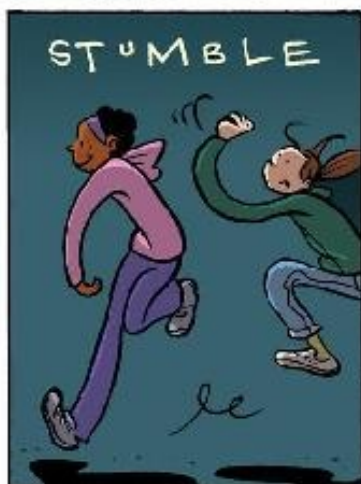
CHAPTER ONE













WHAM!





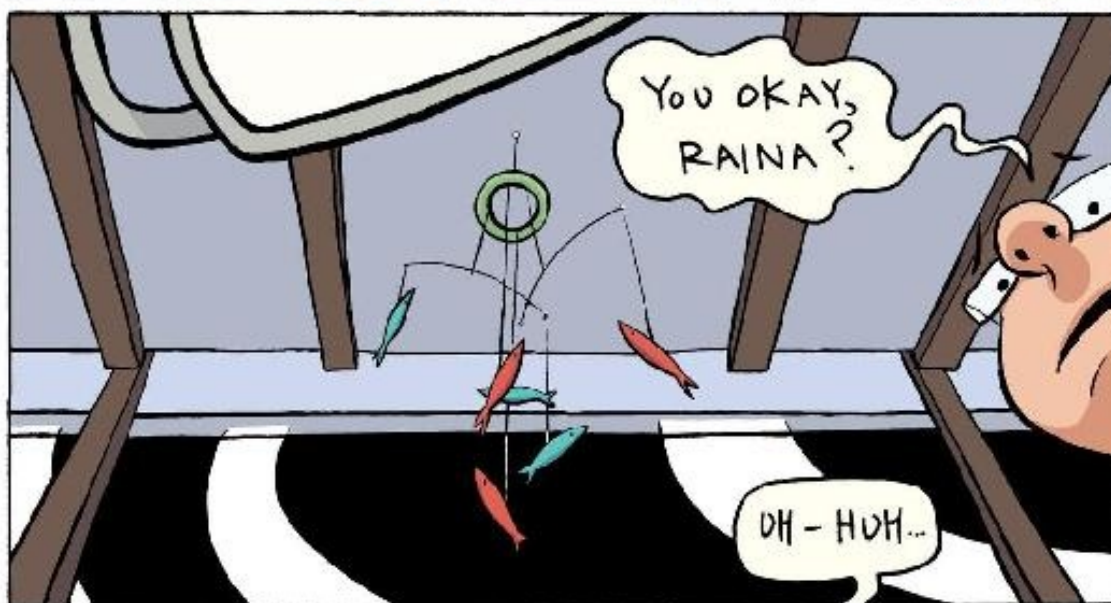
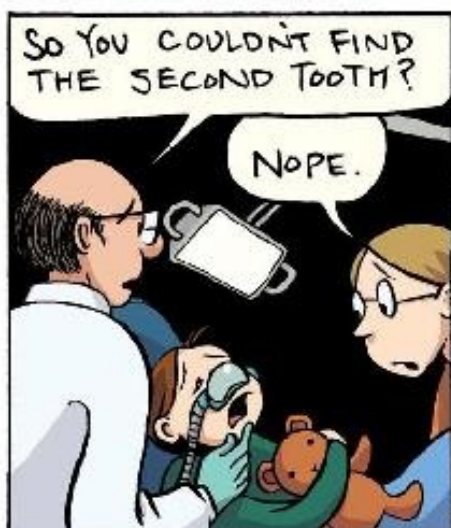




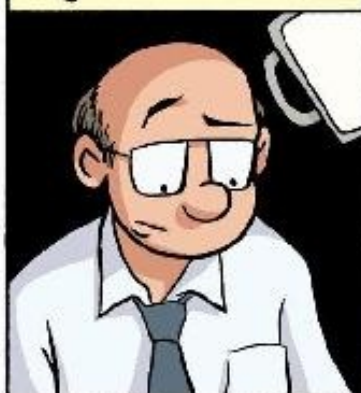




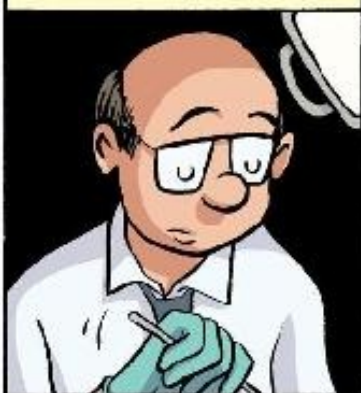




I don't remember the rest of that night too well.



Dr. Golden put the tooth that fell out back in place...



... and pulled the other one down from out of my gum (where it was stuck).



Novocaine, nitrous, and codeine in my sleepy, overwhelmed body...



... made the whole thing seem like a weird dream.





OH, HONEY, YOU'RE AWAKE! HOW ARE YOU FEELING? DO YOU WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?



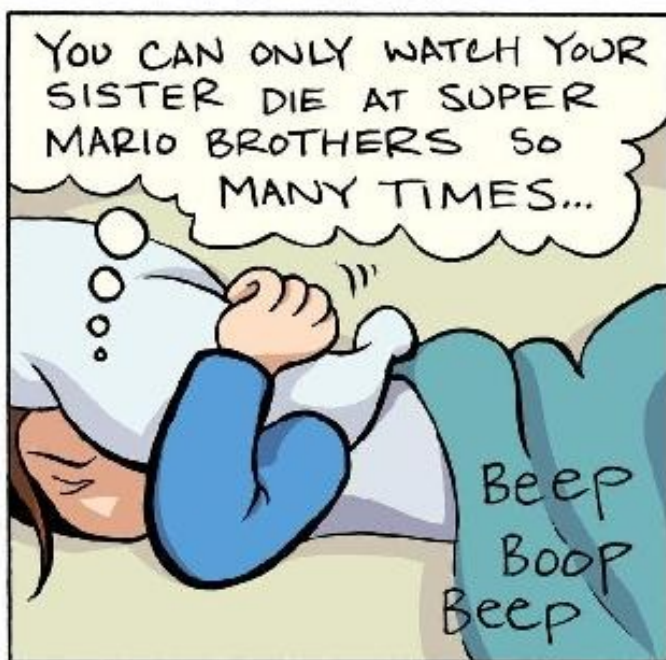
WHAT' TH THITH THTUFF ON MY TEETH??



DR. GOLDEN SAID IT'S SORT OF LIKE A CAST. IT'LL KEEP YOUR TEETH IN PLACE WHILE THEY HEAL.

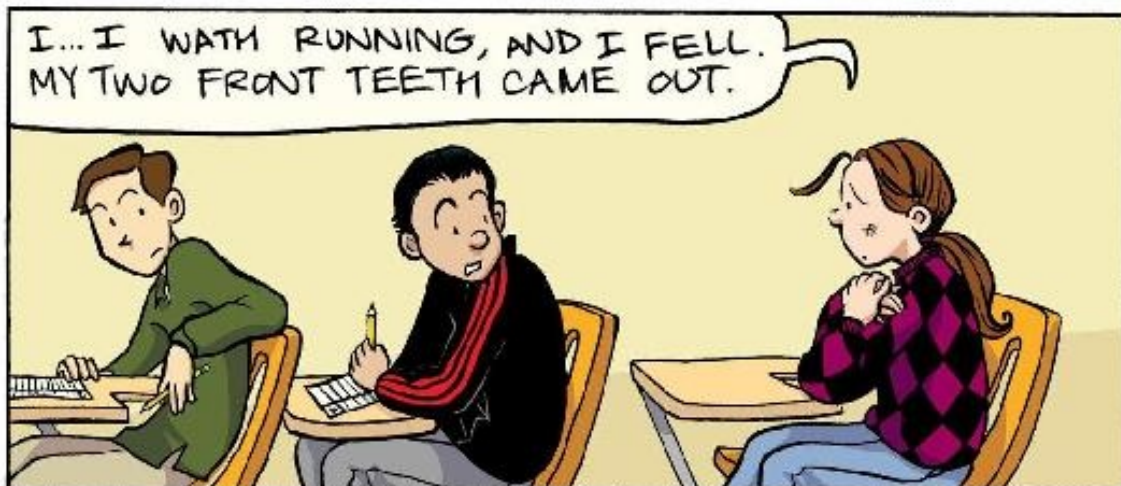
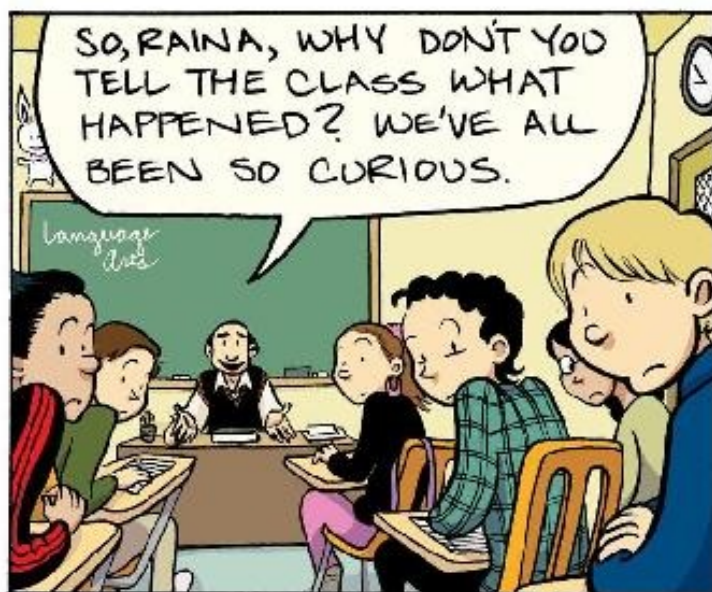


OH.





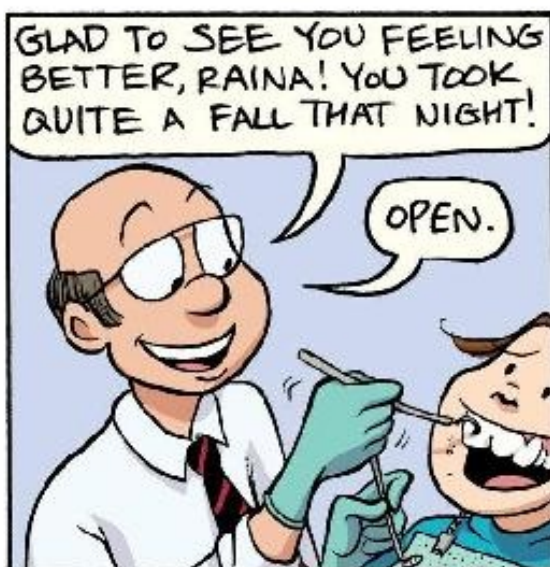


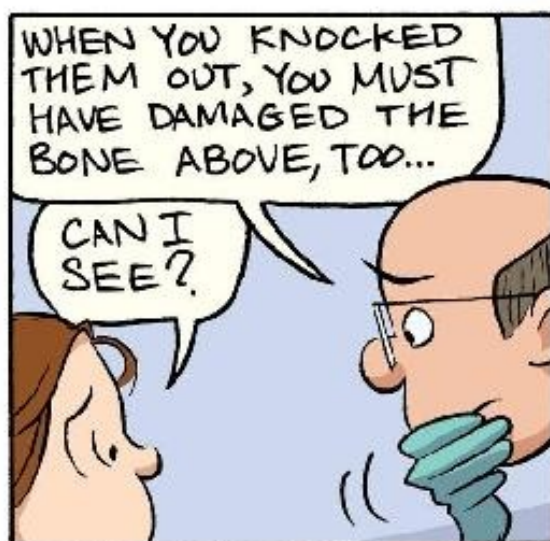


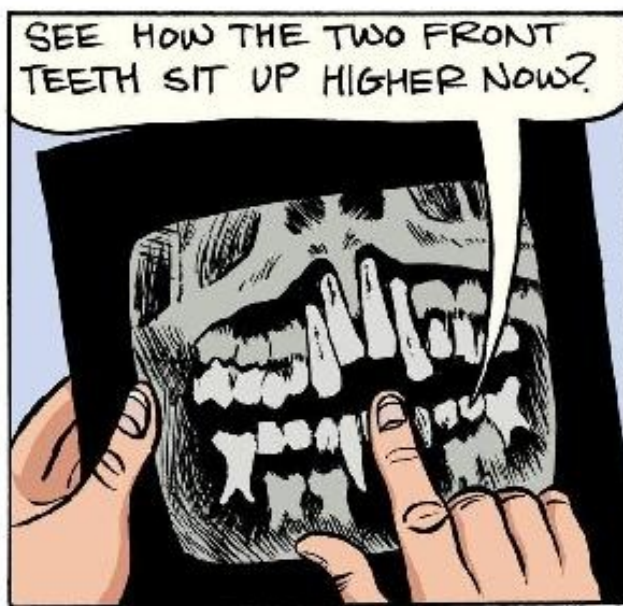










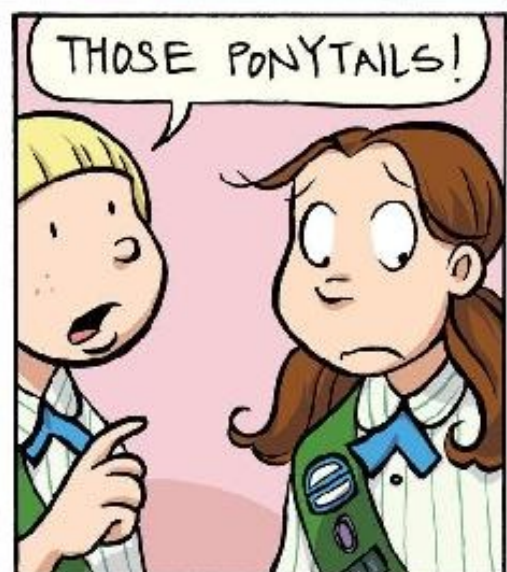






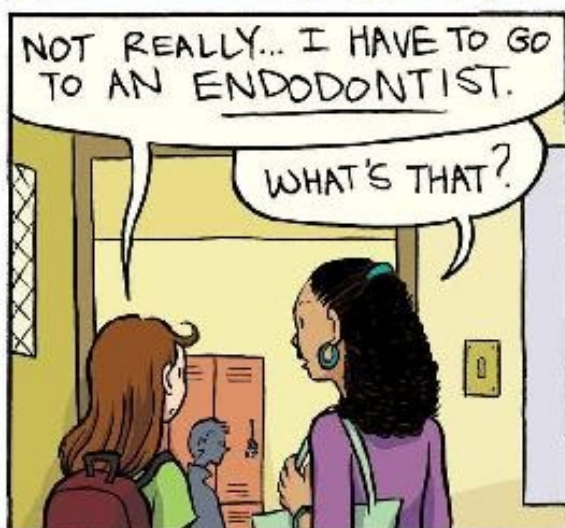
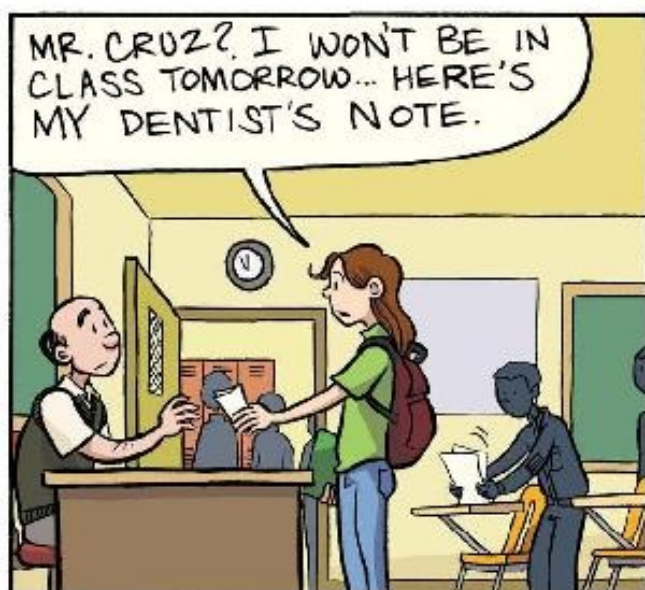
CHAPTER TWO



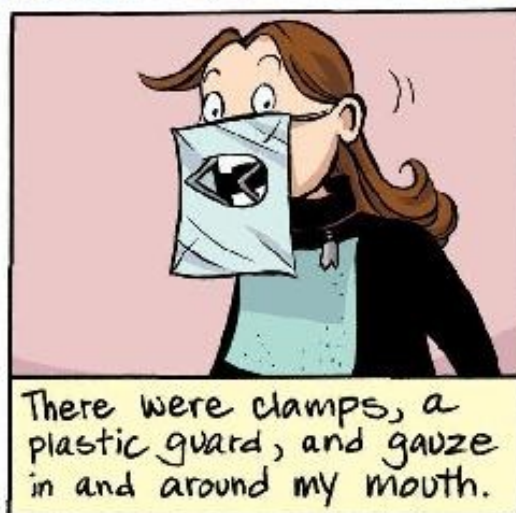


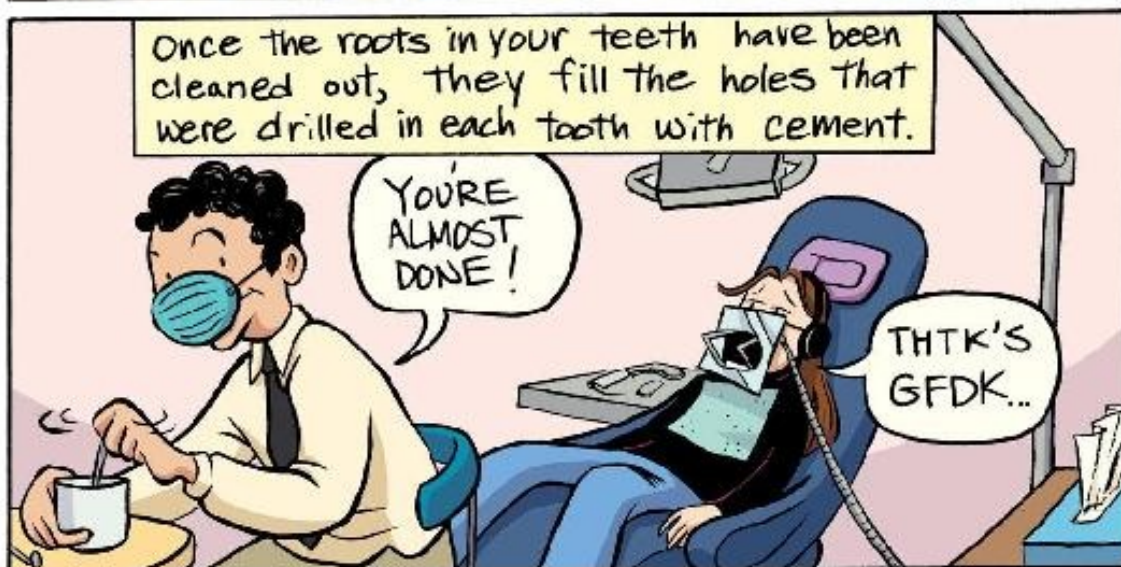










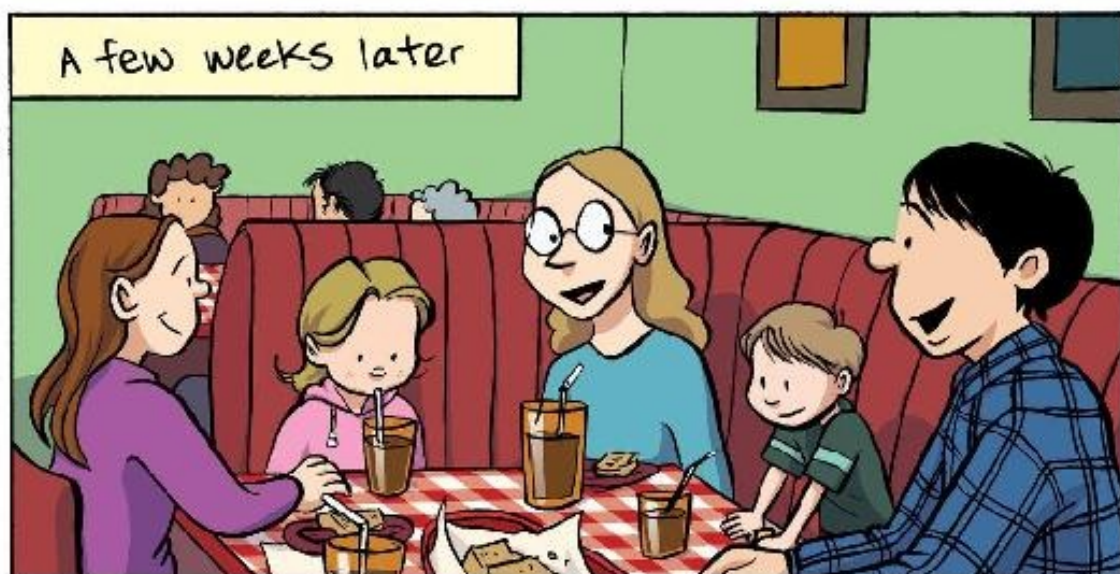


The cement is sealed with a red-hot metal tool...

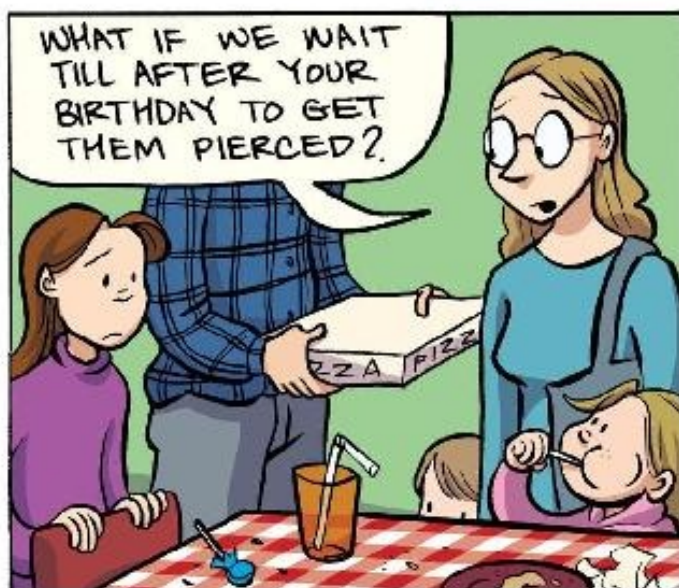


...which I SMELLED as it accidentally touched the roof of my mouth before I felt it.











SURE. FIXING YOUR OVER-BITE WAS THE WHOLE POINT TO BEGIN WITH.



BUT... BUT I'M GONNA LOOK LIKE A NERD WITH HEADGEAR ON!



YOU ONLY NEED TO WEAR IT AT NIGHT!



JAMIE, ARE YOU READY WITH THAT?

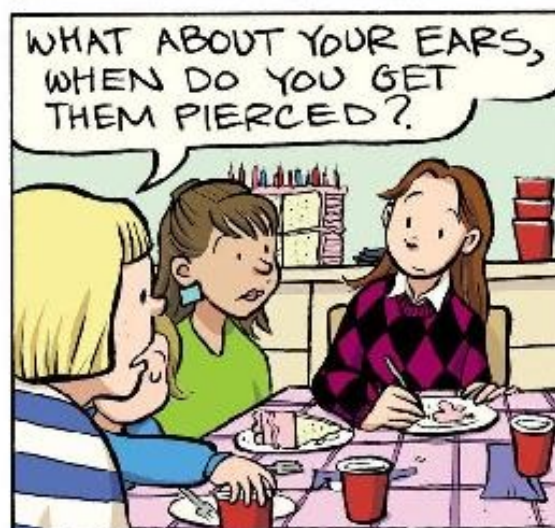
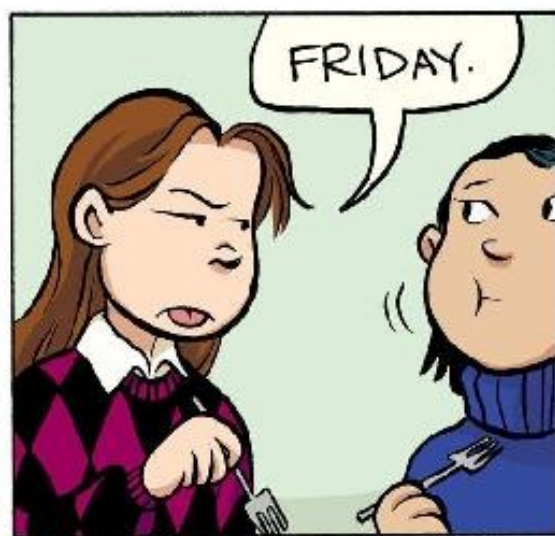


WE'RE MAKING A MOLD OF YOUR MOUTH. OPEN UP... THIS MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE...



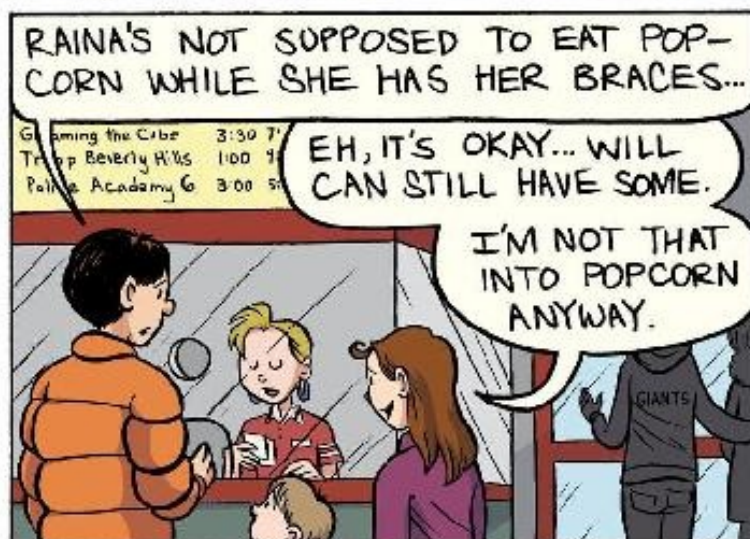


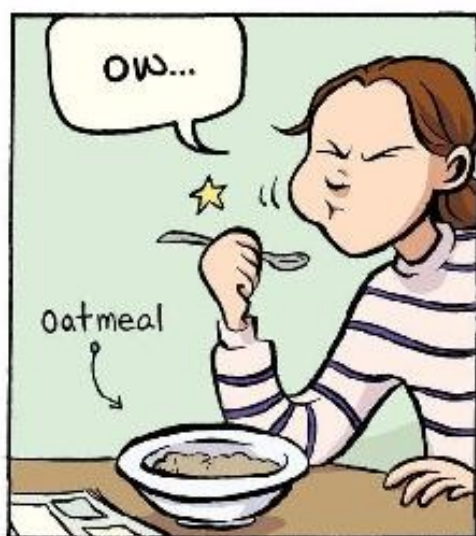




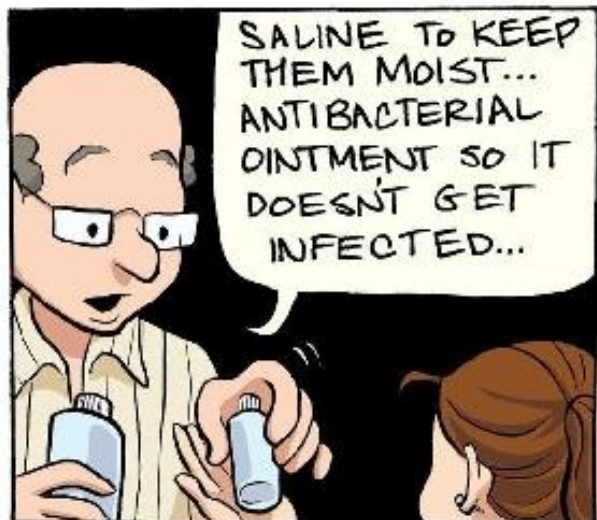


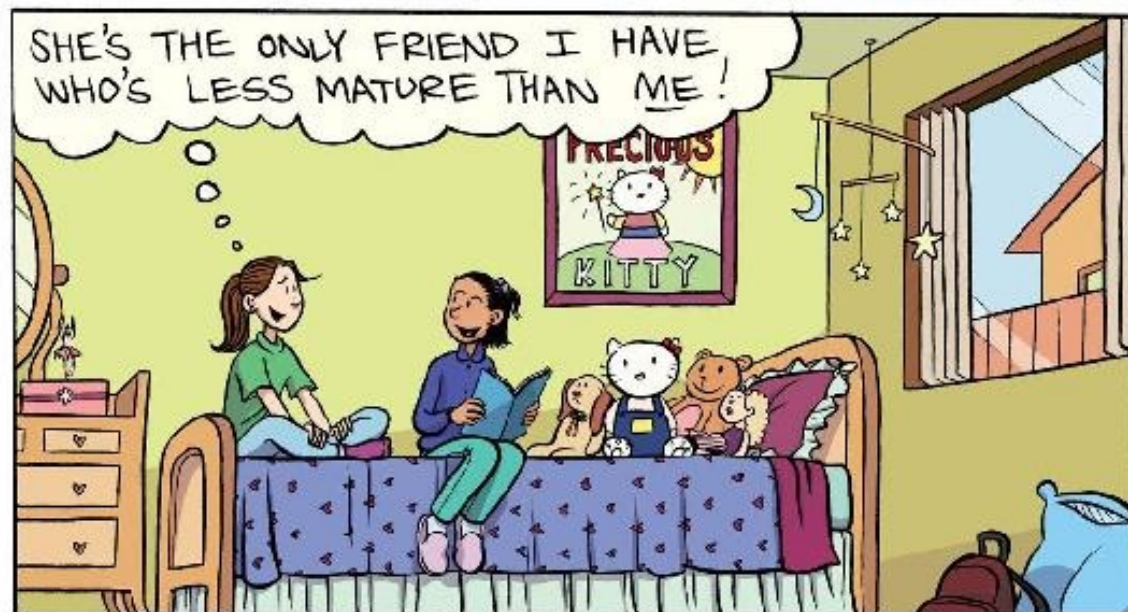
















CHAPTER THREE



That summer was pretty normal, as summers go.



Girl Scout camp



Grandma



Nintendo



Fog

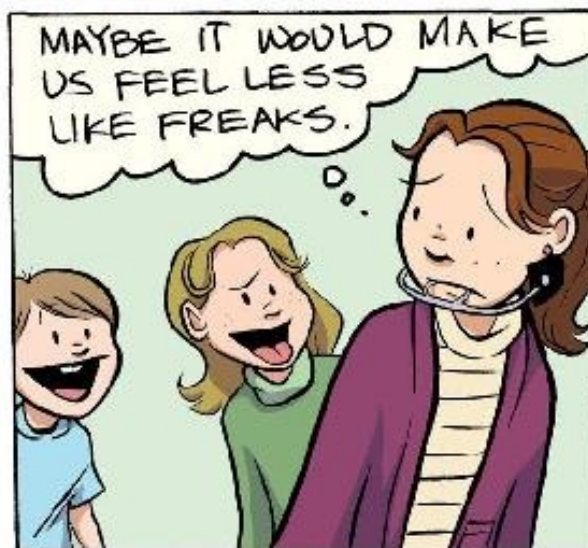


Car trips



Orthodontist







GREAT. THE FIRST DAY OF SEVENTH GRADE AND I'M TOTALLY BREAKING OUT.



MELISSA... I'VE TURNED INTO A BRACE-FACE AND A ZIT-FACE!! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!



EVERYONE'S GONNA NOTICE!



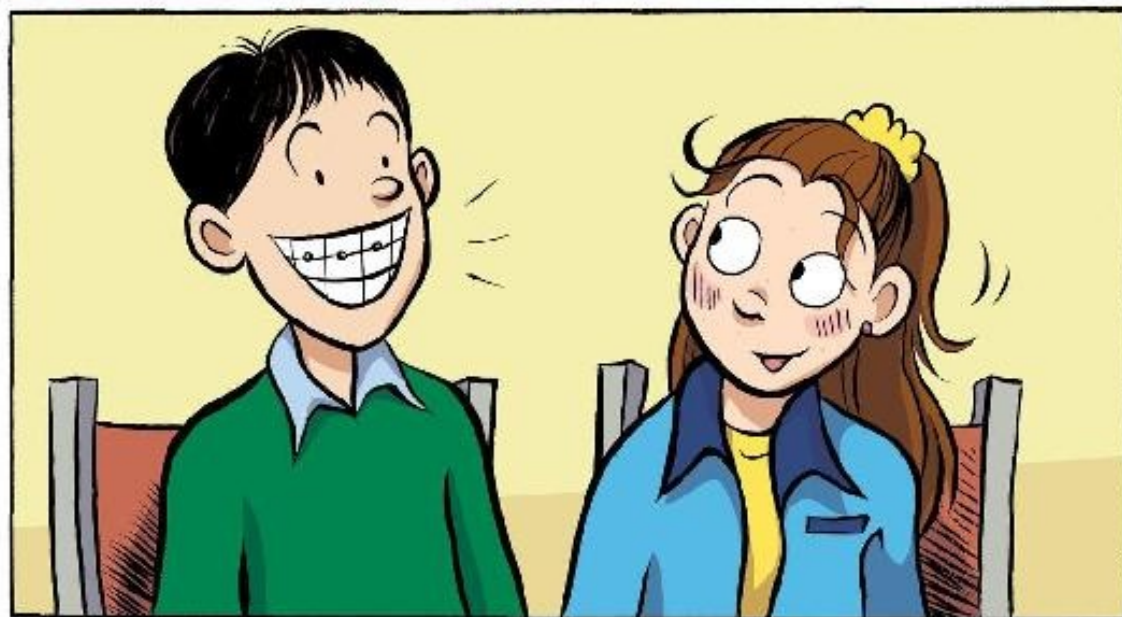
LOOKIT ALL THESE LITTLE KIDS! AAAA! TINY-TOT SIXTH GRADERS EVERYWHERE!!



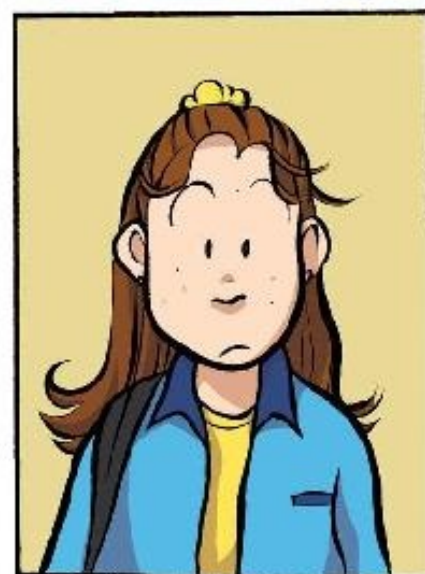
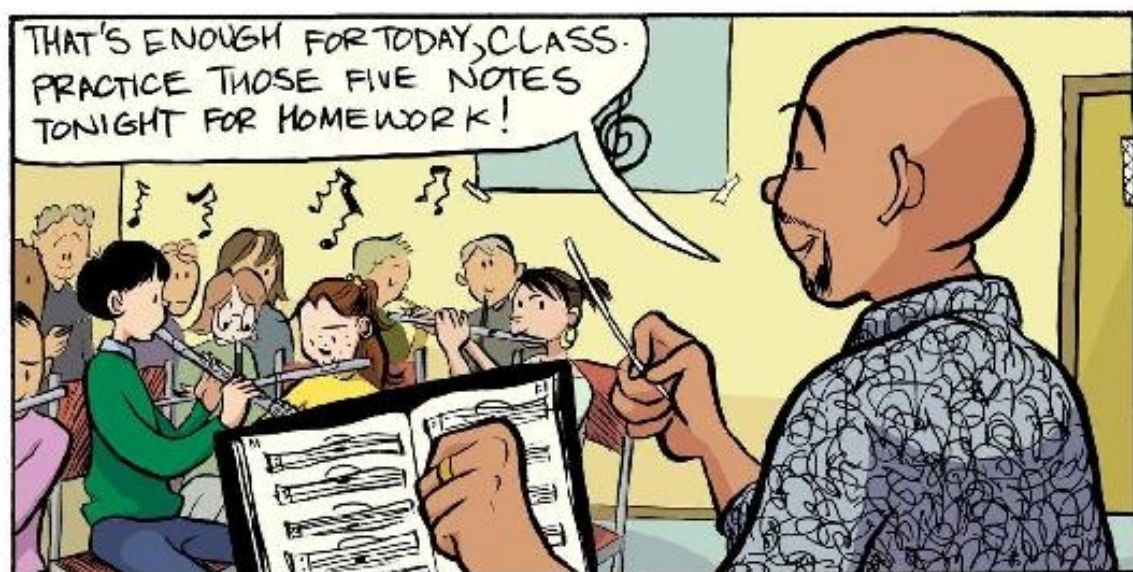
UNLESS EVERYONE AROUND ME IS TOO SCARED TO NOTICE!!



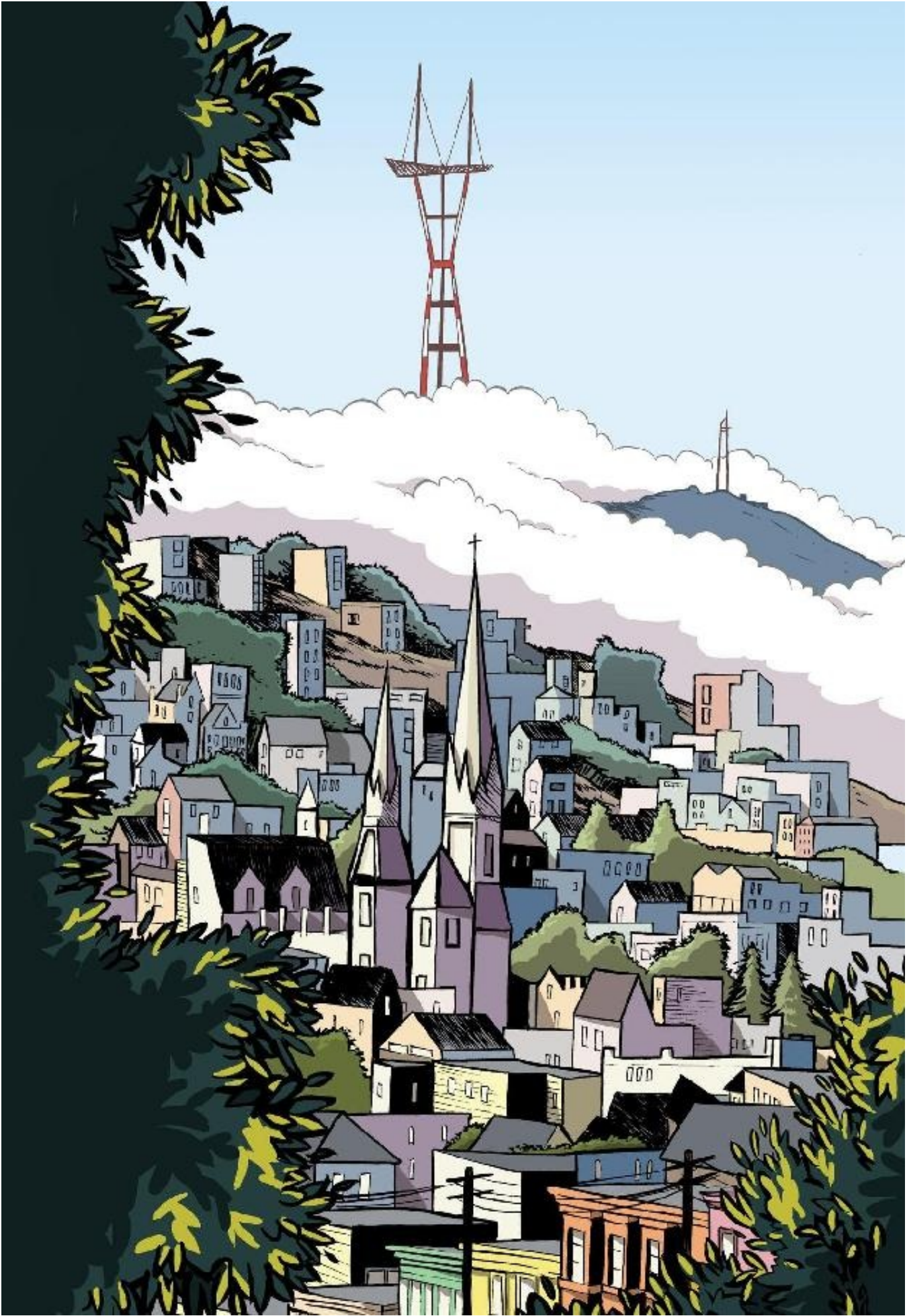












San Francisco summers are cold and foggy... but October is usually a sunny month.



And like every year, this brought a feeling of optimism into the air.



Like something good was about to happen.





RATTLE BOOM SHAKE



WILL!! DON'T JUST
STAND THERE!!
COME HERE
QUICK!!!

OH MY
GOSH.

OH MY
GOSH.

HUH?

That was the first time my
sister voluntarily hugged
me... and the only time I've
ever heard her pray.

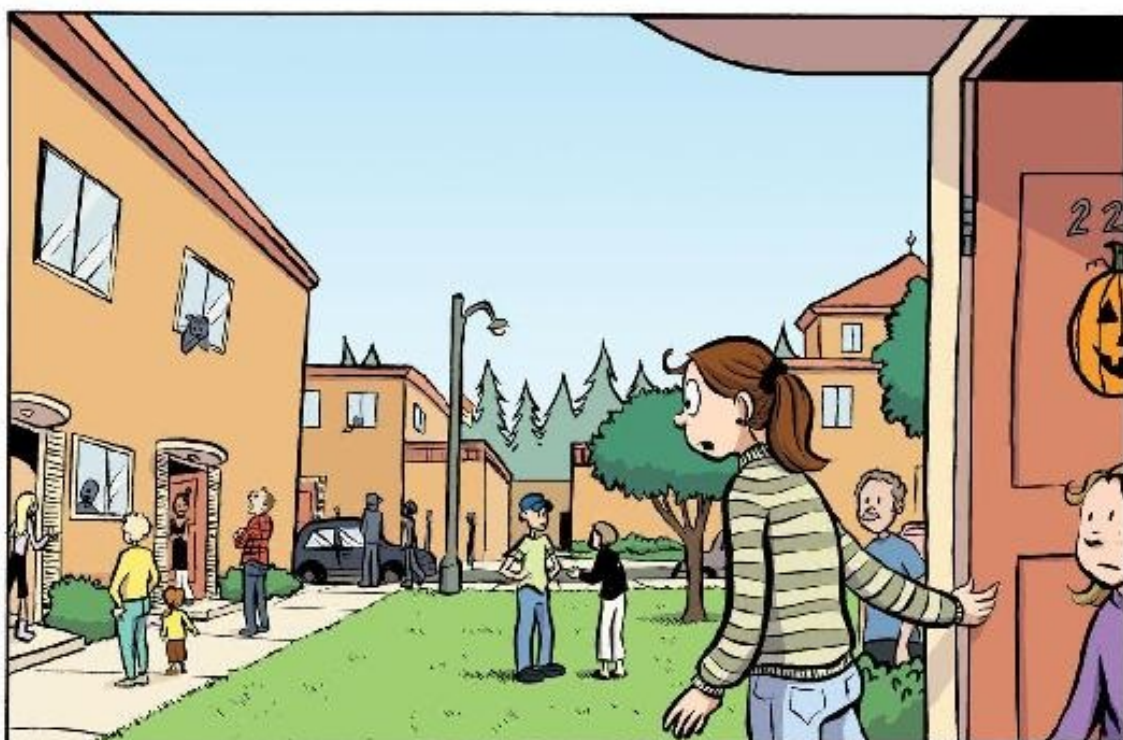
And just as
soon as it had
started ...

Mumble
Mumble

BOOOOMMMMMHHHHMMMM...













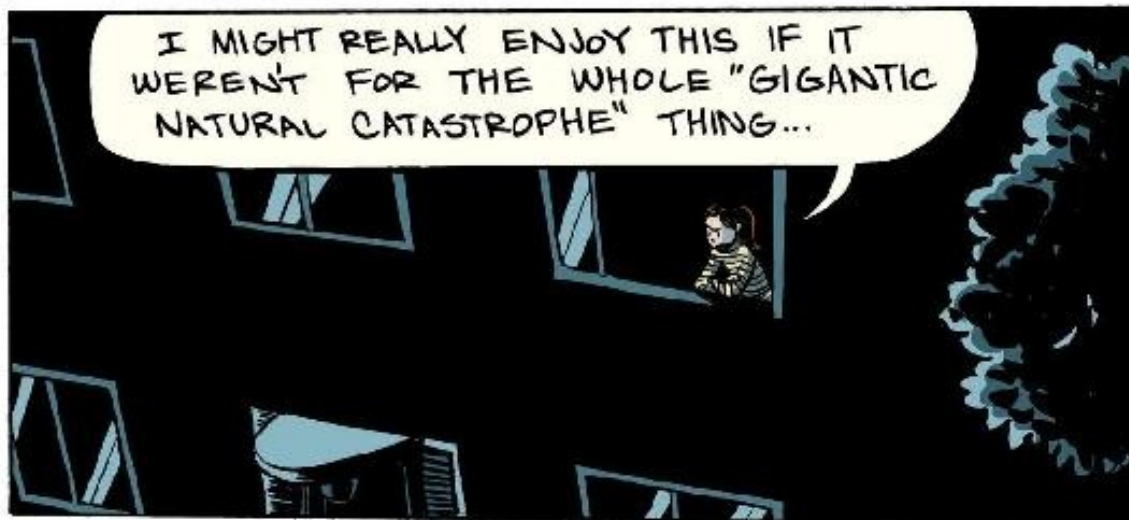
IT'S SO STRANGE TO LOOK
OUT OVER THE CITY WHEN
ALL THE LIGHTS ARE OUT.

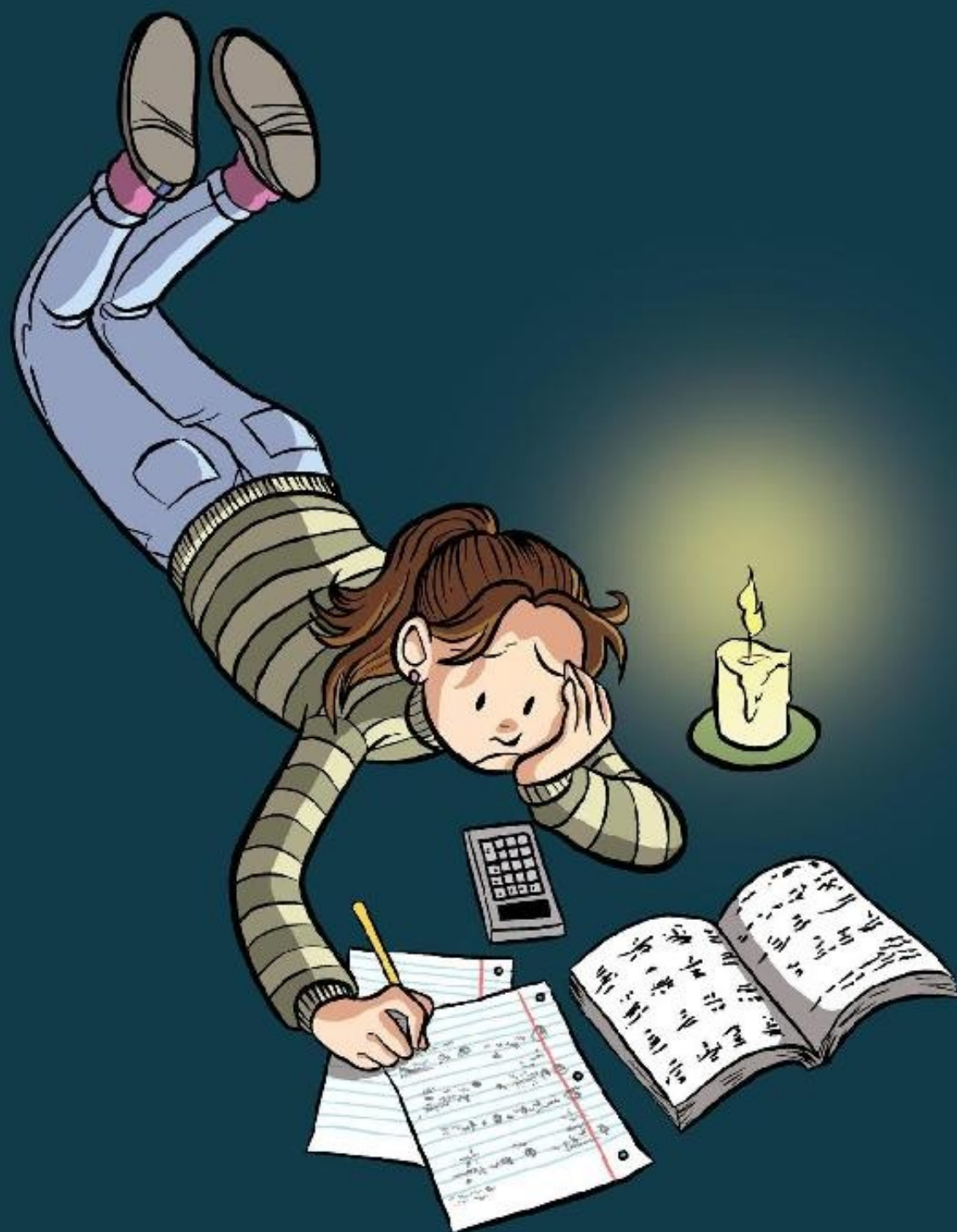


AND IT'S SUCH A NICE
NIGHT, TOO: CLEAR,
WARM, NO WIND, QUIET.

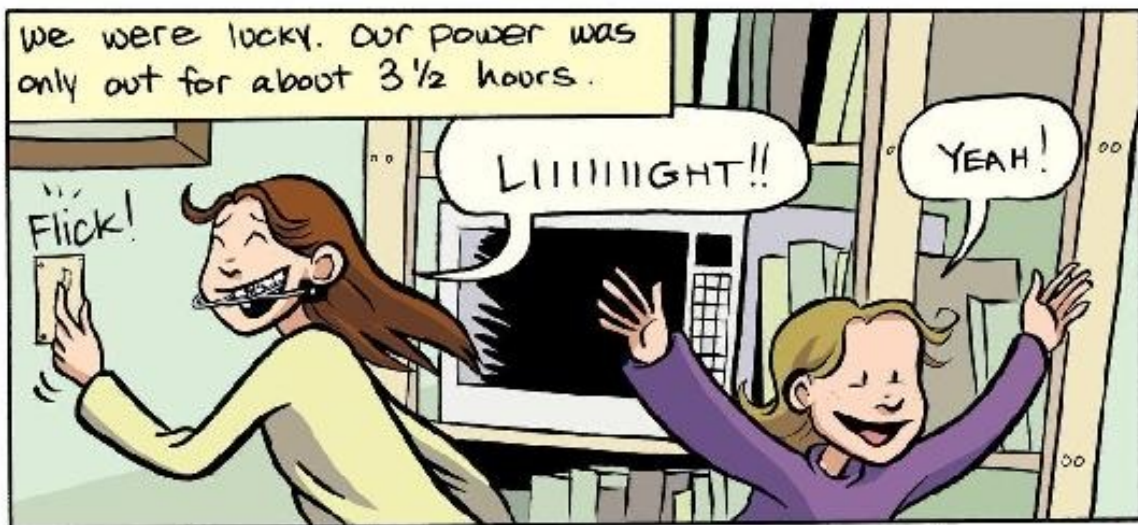


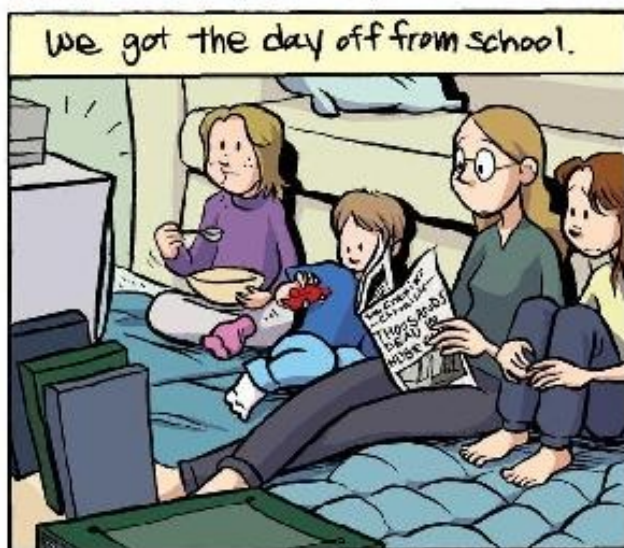
I MIGHT REALLY ENJOY THIS IF IT
WEREN'T FOR THE WHOLE "GIGANTIC
NATURAL CATASTROPHE" THING...

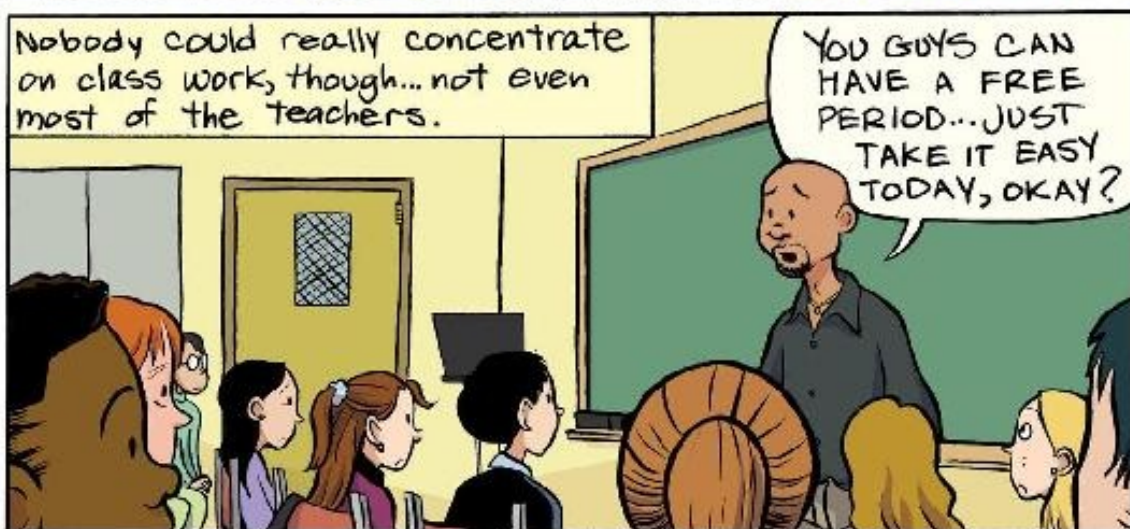




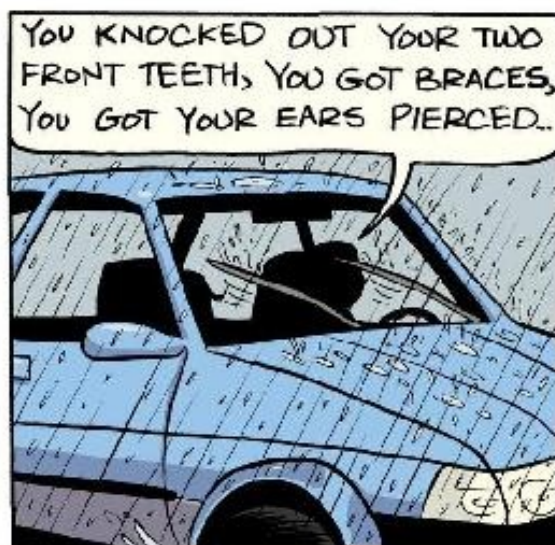














CHAPTER FOUR





A few days before Thanksgiving
SO, THE BAD NEWS IS, YOUR
TEETH AREN'T REALLY RESPOND-
ING TO THE TREATMENT.



WE'VE TRIED TO MOVE THE
TWO FRONT TEETH BACK
DOWN INTO PLACE
WITH THE BRACES...



... BUT AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS,
IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE
WORKING.



SO AM I GONNA LOOK
LIKE A VAMPIRE
FOREVER??



NO... AND THAT'S THE GOOD
NEWS. I THINK WE SHOULD
GIVE YOU A TEMPORARY SET
OF FAKE TEETH!



IT WOULD
FIRST REQUIRE
A SIMPLE
EXTRACTION.

"EXTRACTION"... AS IN,
PULLING SOMETHING OUT?



WELL... YES. EVEN THOUGH YOU GOT ROOT CANALS ON YOUR FRONT TEETH, THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO "TAKE."



YOUR TWO FRONT TEETH ARE FUSED TO YOUR JAWBONE-- THEREFORE THEY WON'T MOVE WITH ORTHODONTICS.



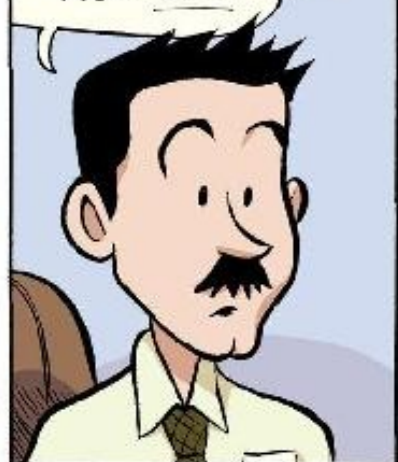
SO, WE PULL THEM BACK OUT, AND BUILD YOU A RETAINER WITH TWO PERFECT TEETH ATTACHED TO IT, TO FILL THE GAP!

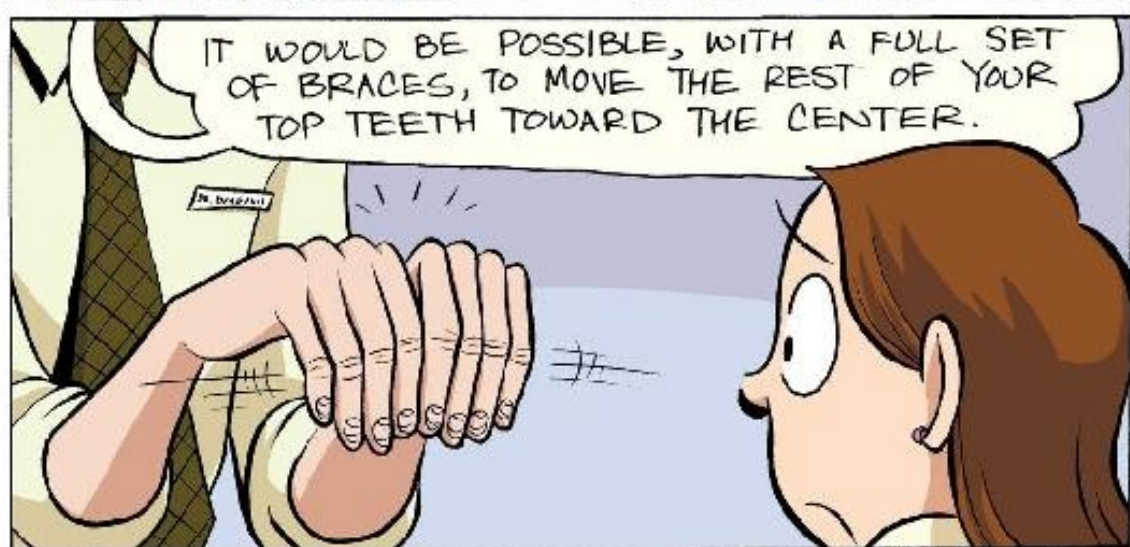


It's humiliating to let a doctor see you cry... but sometimes, it can't be helped.



OH, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.





It made sense to wait until Winter Break to pull out my teeth...then, at least, I wouldn't miss any school.



Still, that meant I had weeks and weeks to worry about it.



I even worried during art class, which was usually my escape from reality.



HEY, MY DAD TOOK ME TO SEE "THE LITTLE MERMAID" LAST NIGHT. IT WAS REALLY GOOD.



YEAH, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY GO SEE IT.



...MAYBE I WILL.



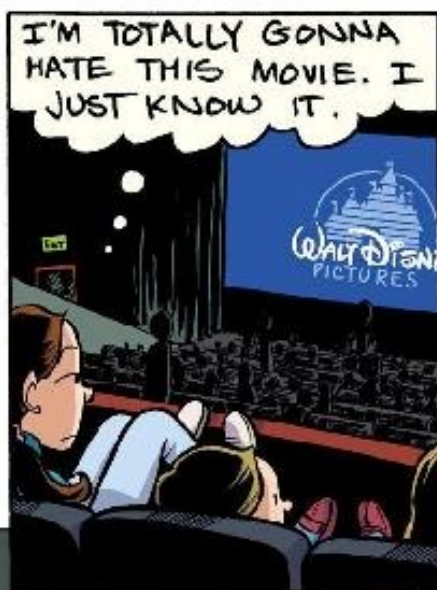
I'M TAKING YOUR SISTER AND HER FRIEND TO SEE "THE LITTLE MERMAID" TOMORROW, RAINA... WANT TO COME WITH US?



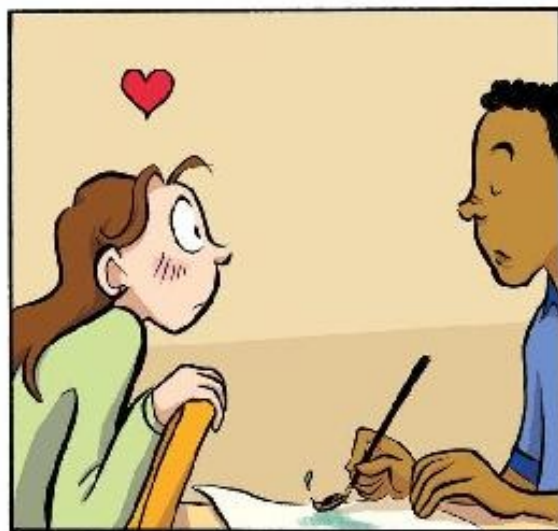
I GUESS.

BUT ONLY 'CAUSE EMILY TOLD ME IT WAS GOOD.









Before my two front teeth could be taken out, my braces had to be taken off.



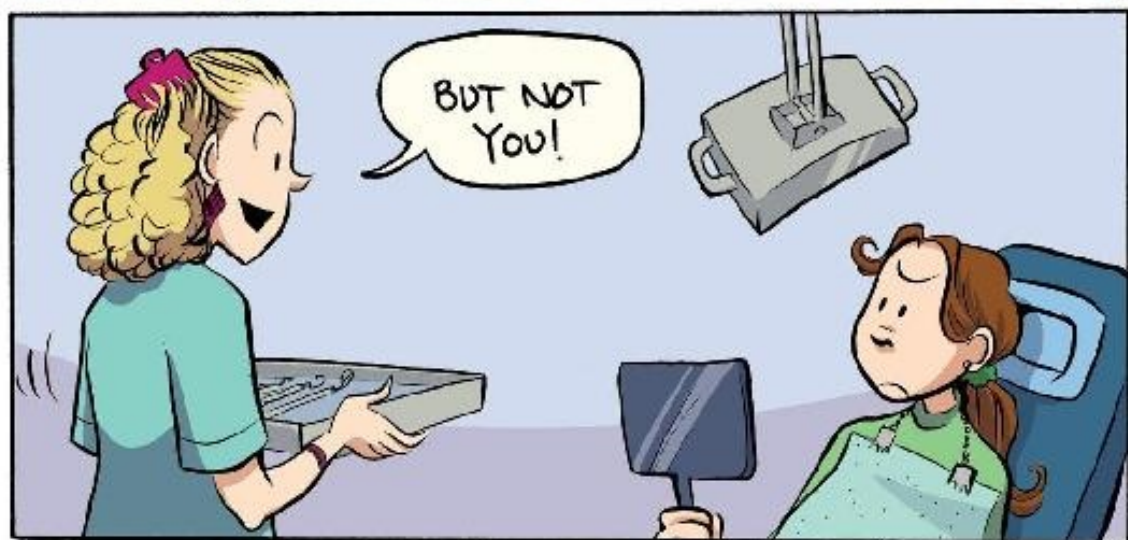
THERE YOU GO!



WHEN MOST PEOPLE GET THEIR BRACES OFF, IT'S BECAUSE THEIR TEETH ARE FINALLY PERFECT!



BUT NOT YOU!



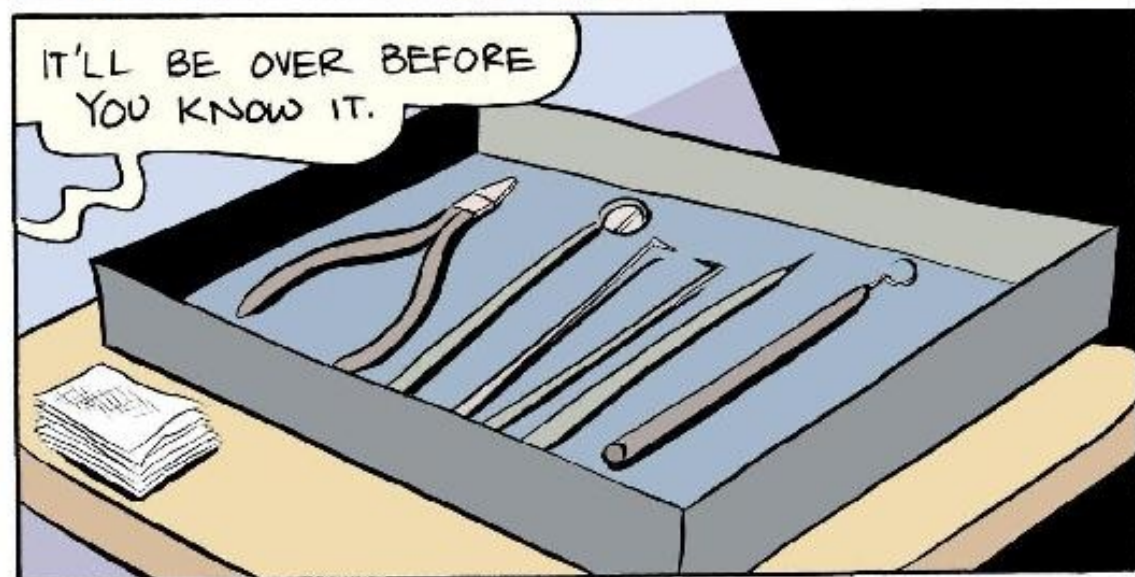




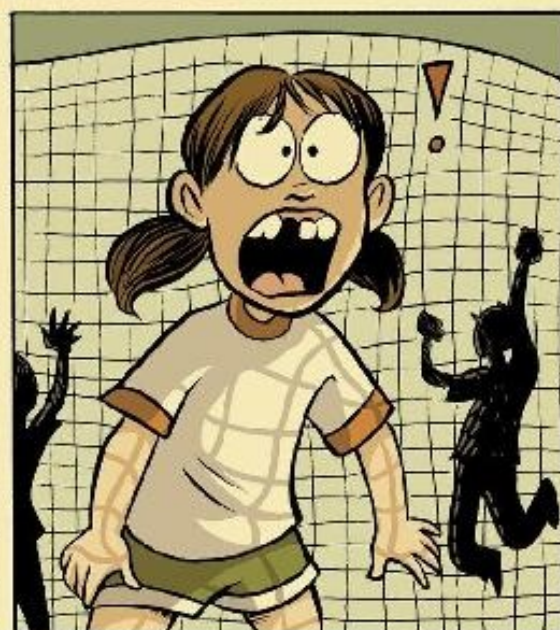
Season's Greetings
from
The Telgemeiers

Sue Denis
Amara Will

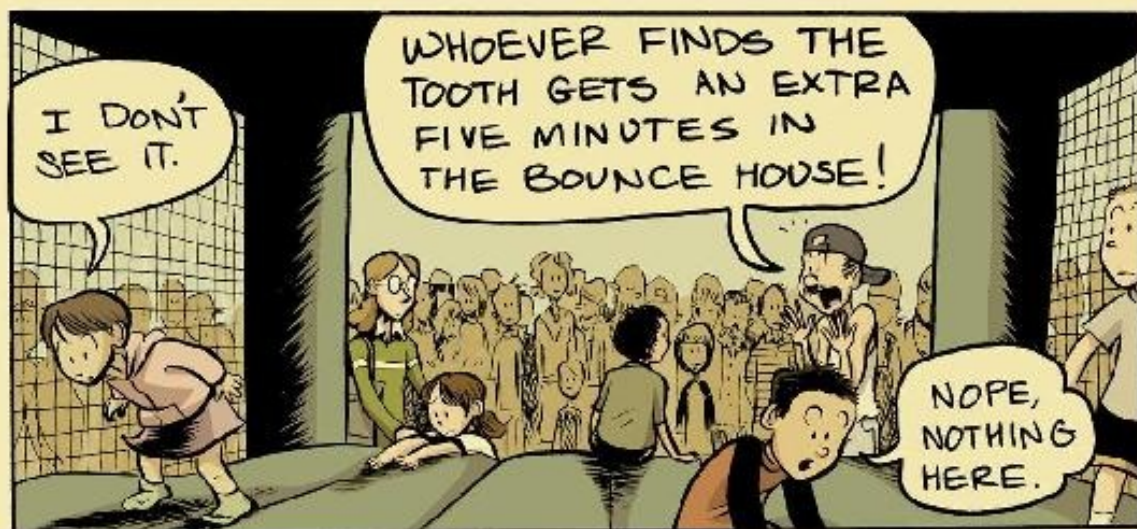
Raina











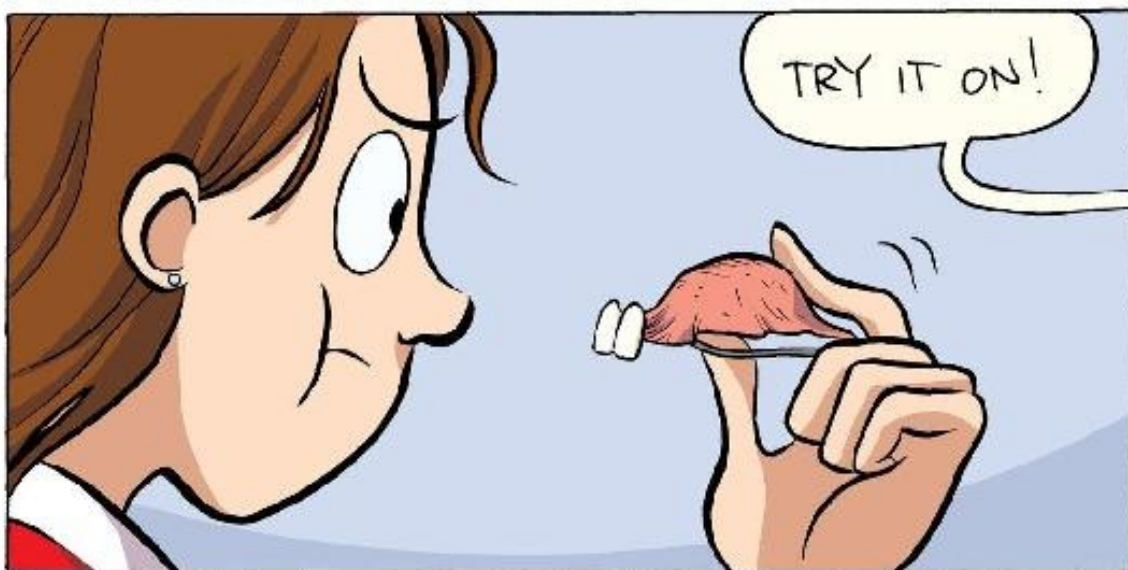
















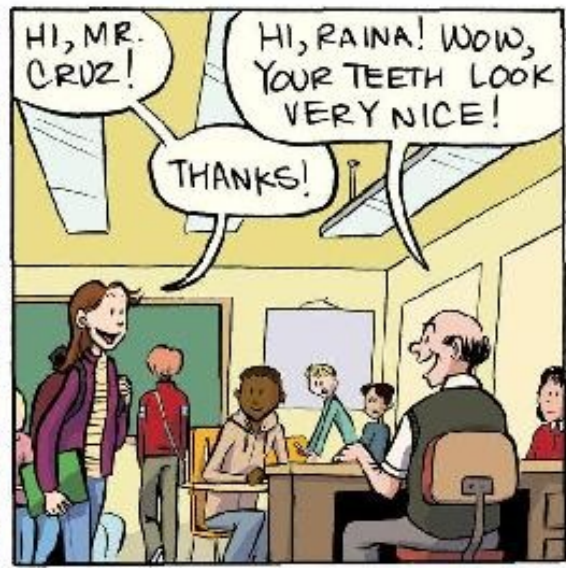


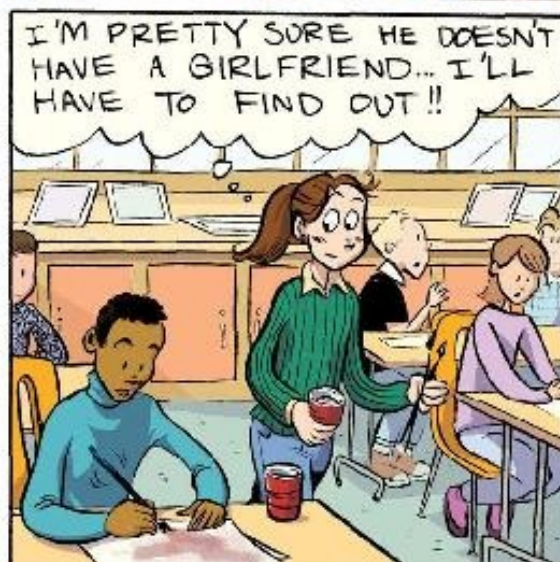


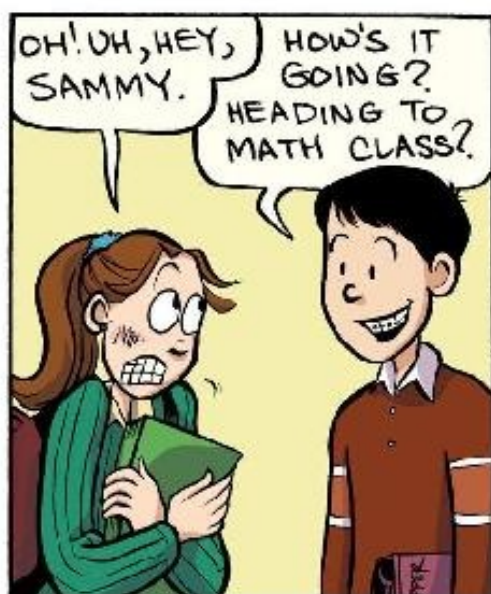
*FROM NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK!



CHAPTER FIVE





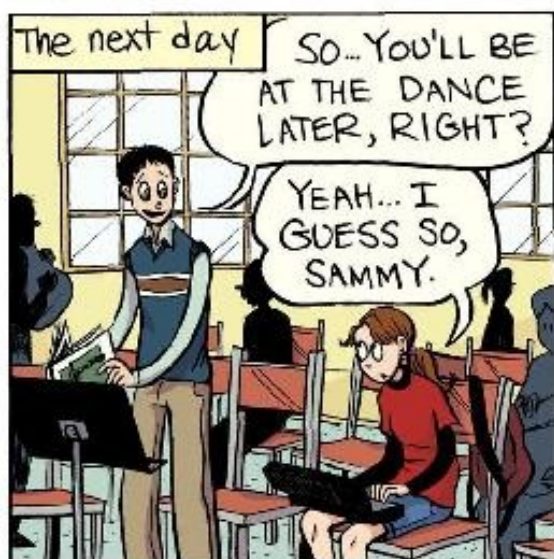
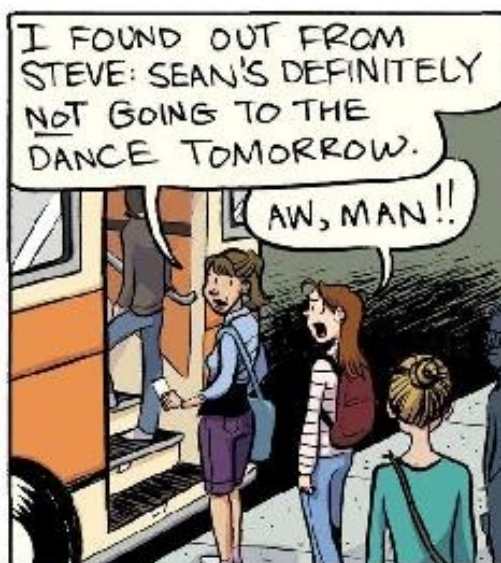














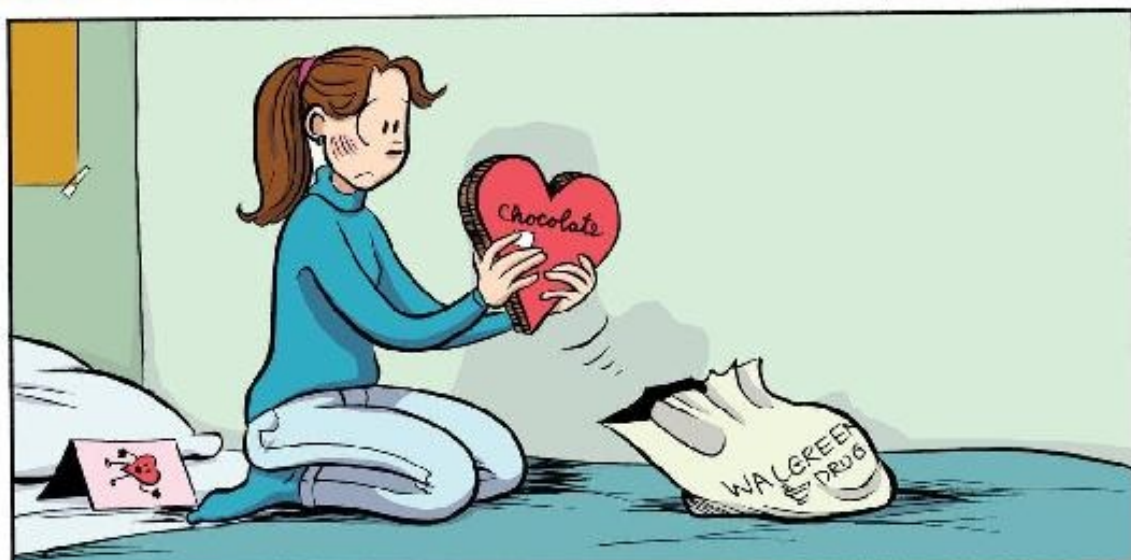
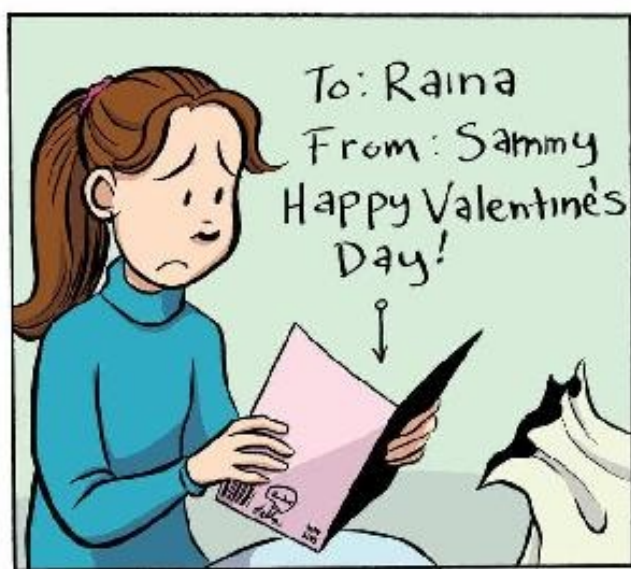








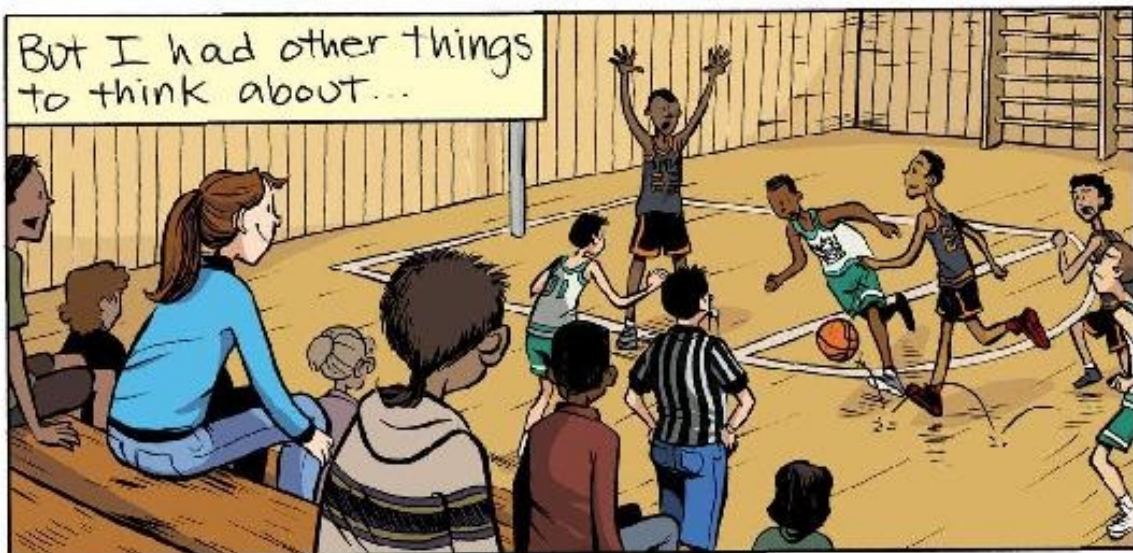




Sammy never spoke to me again after that.



But I had other things to think about...

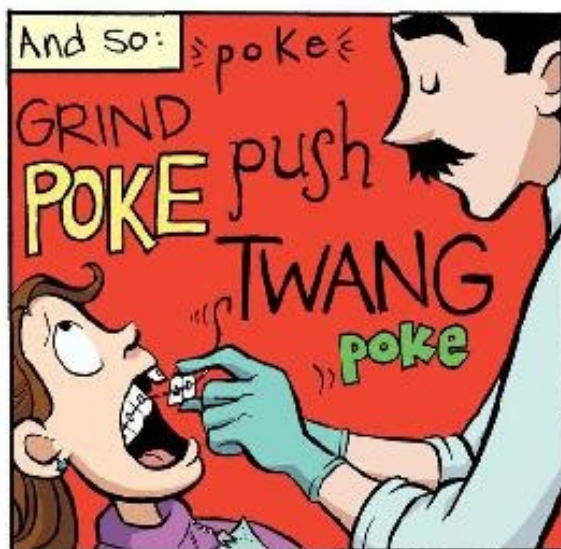


EVERYTHING'S
LOOKING GREAT!
WE CAN GO AHEAD
AND PUT YOUR BRACES
ON AGAIN SOON!

WHAT?



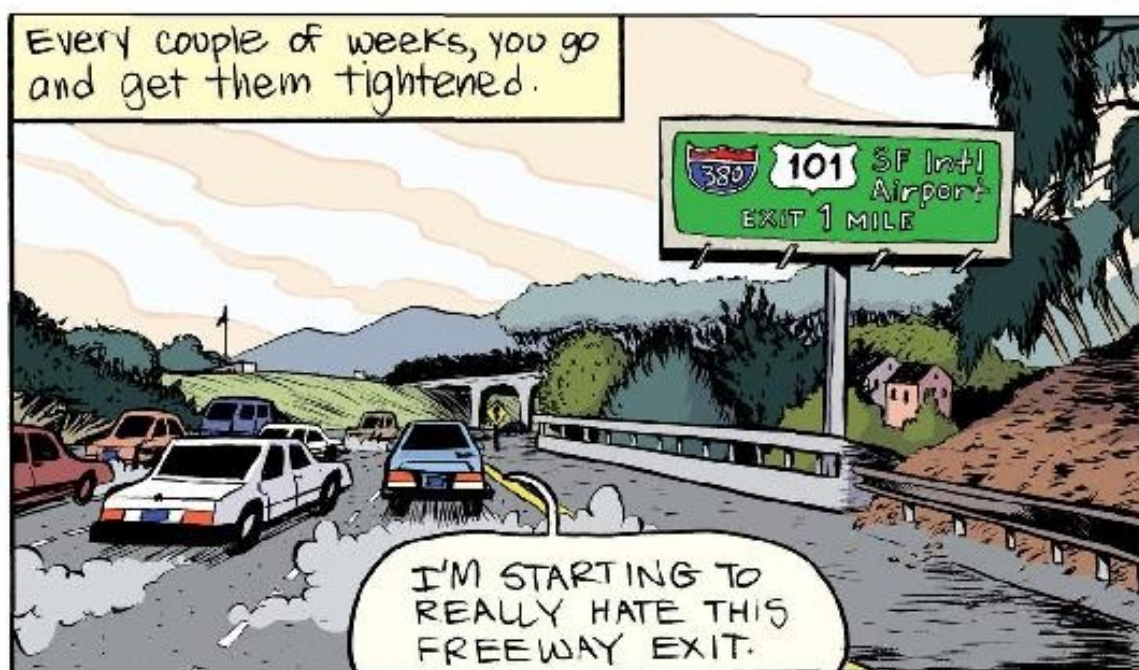












The orthodontist takes the current wires off of your brackets...



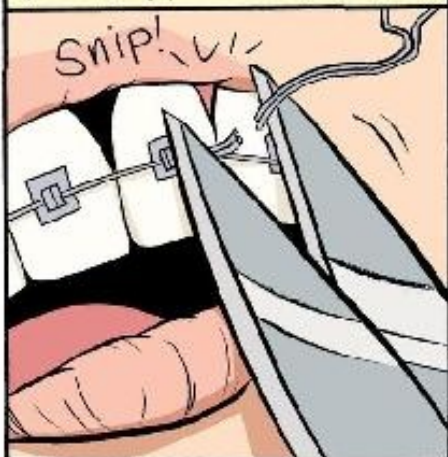
...and puts new wires on.



And then he **TIGHTENS THEM.**

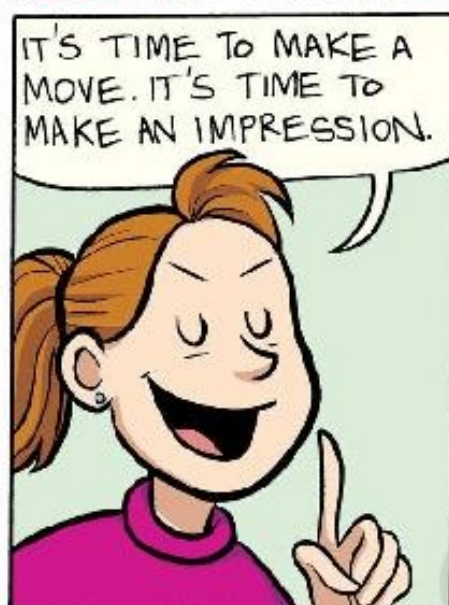


The ends of the wires are clipped off...



...AND WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN TWO WEEKS!

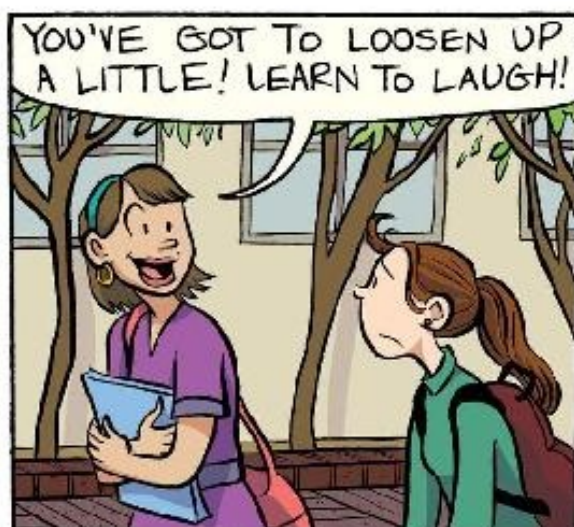
















CHAPTER SIX

The summer between seventh and eighth grade was mostly uneventful.



The weather was cold (like always), so I stayed inside a lot...



pretended I'd given Sean my phone number...



moonied over a certain someone's picture...



and avoided the obvious.



As my teeth moved closer together...

The fake teeth in the empty space were shaved down little by little.

A close-up illustration of a person's mouth with braces. The person has brown hair and is wearing pink lip rings. A finger is pointing to the lower teeth, which have braces. The upper teeth also have braces. The illustration is in a comic book style with bold lines and a limited color palette.

I just hoped no one could tell.

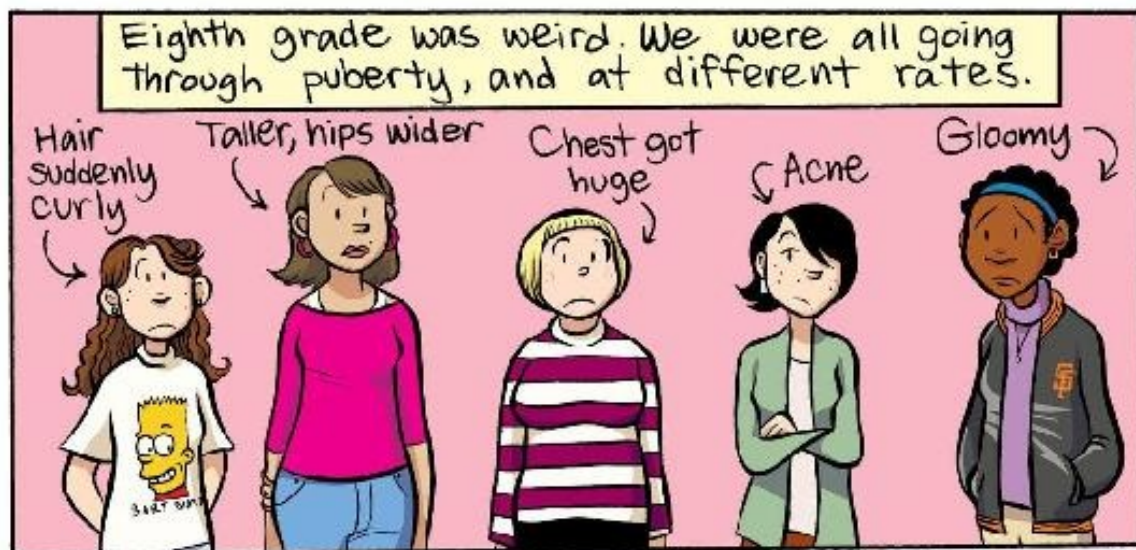
GIRL, YOU NEED TO START USING A BETTER HAIR CONDITIONER.

MY BROTHER HAS THAT SHIRT... IT'S KIND OF A BOY'S SHIRT.

GIRL, YOU NEED TO START USING A BETTER HAIR CONDITIONER.

MY BROTHER HAS THAT SHIRT... IT'S KIND OF A BOY'S SHIRT.

MY BROTHER HAS THAT SHIRT... IT'S KIND OF A BOY'S SHIRT.



The only boy who didn't seem to notice what was going on, was... well... guess.

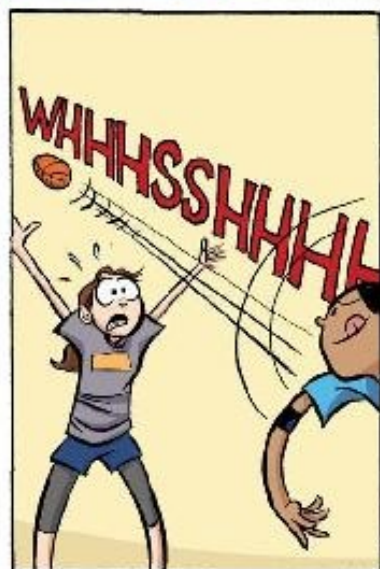
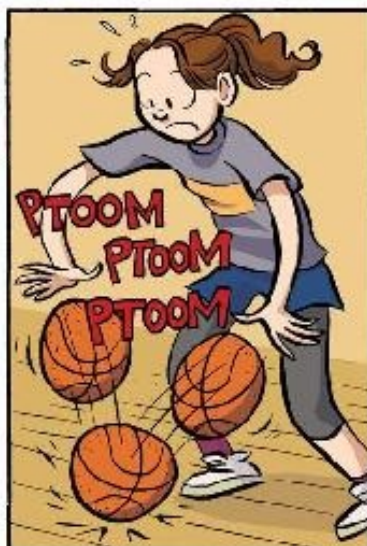


SEAN'S NEVER GOING TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU. HE'S TOO MUCH OF A BASKETBALL-BRAIN.

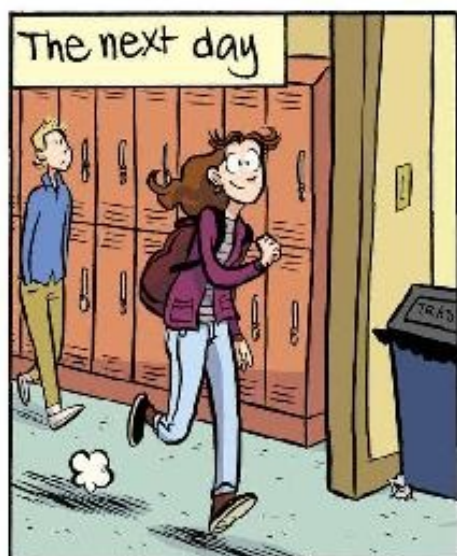


IF IT DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH THREE-POINTERS OR MICHAEL JORDAN, HE ISN'T INTERESTED.



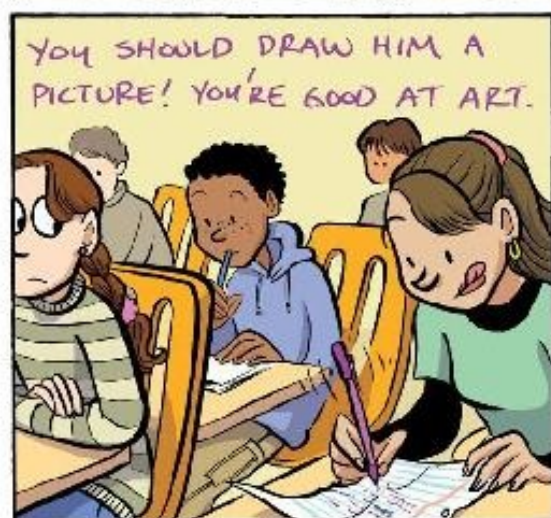
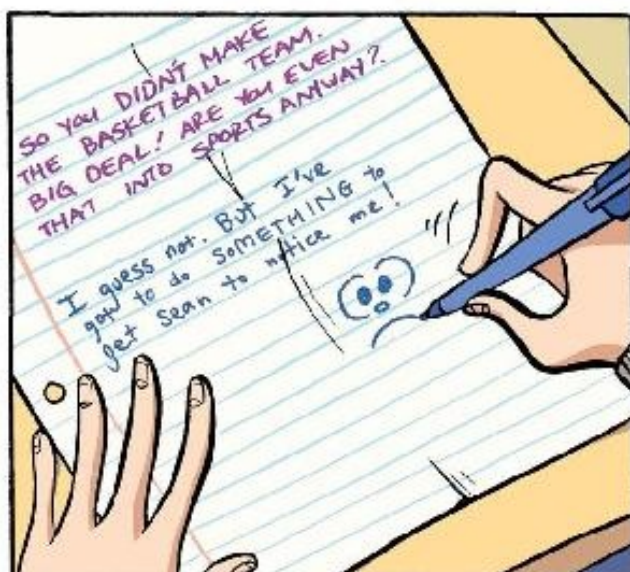
















My crush on Sean was old news to everyone else, but it still consumed my thoughts a lot of the time.



However, something interesting was starting to happen.



Boys who would hang around with us during lunchtime...



...and who would invite their other friends along.



Not all of them were cute, and not all of them were very mature...



But they were good for practice-flirting!



Maybe I liked a few of them, and maybe a few of them liked me ... it wasn't that important.



None of them were Sean.



But, boys were good for video game tips.



Boys didn't give me any flack about my appearance.



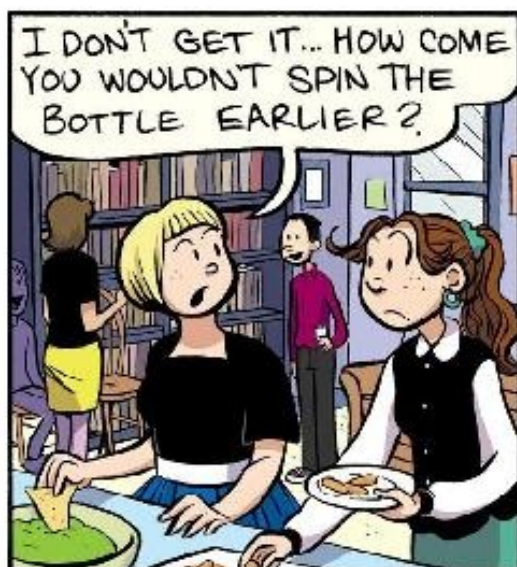
And, they were willing to talk about important issues.





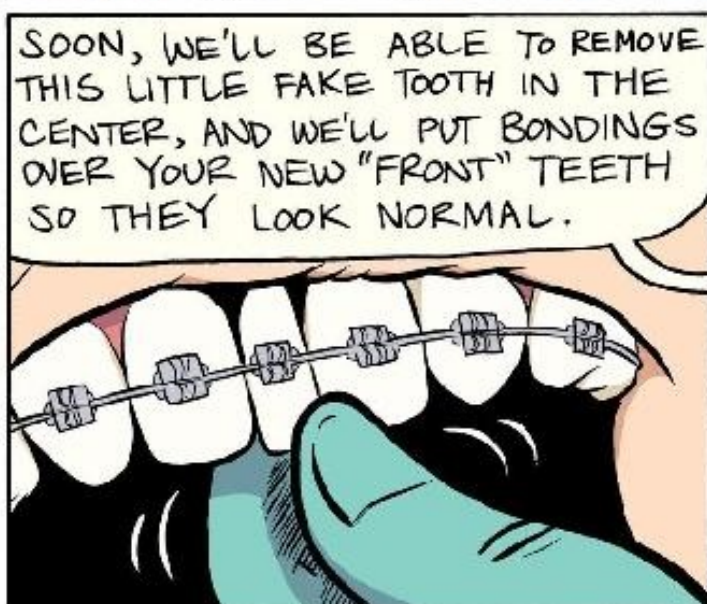










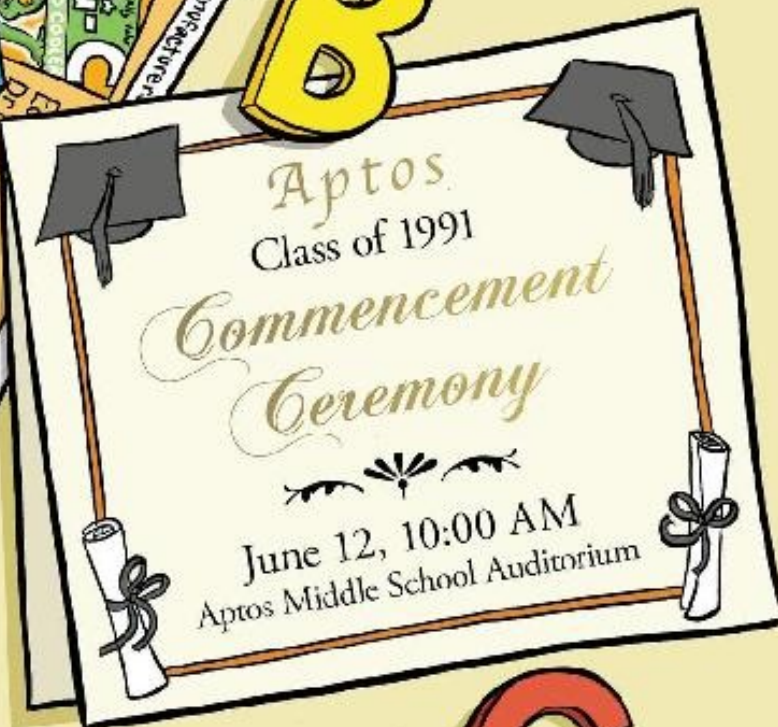




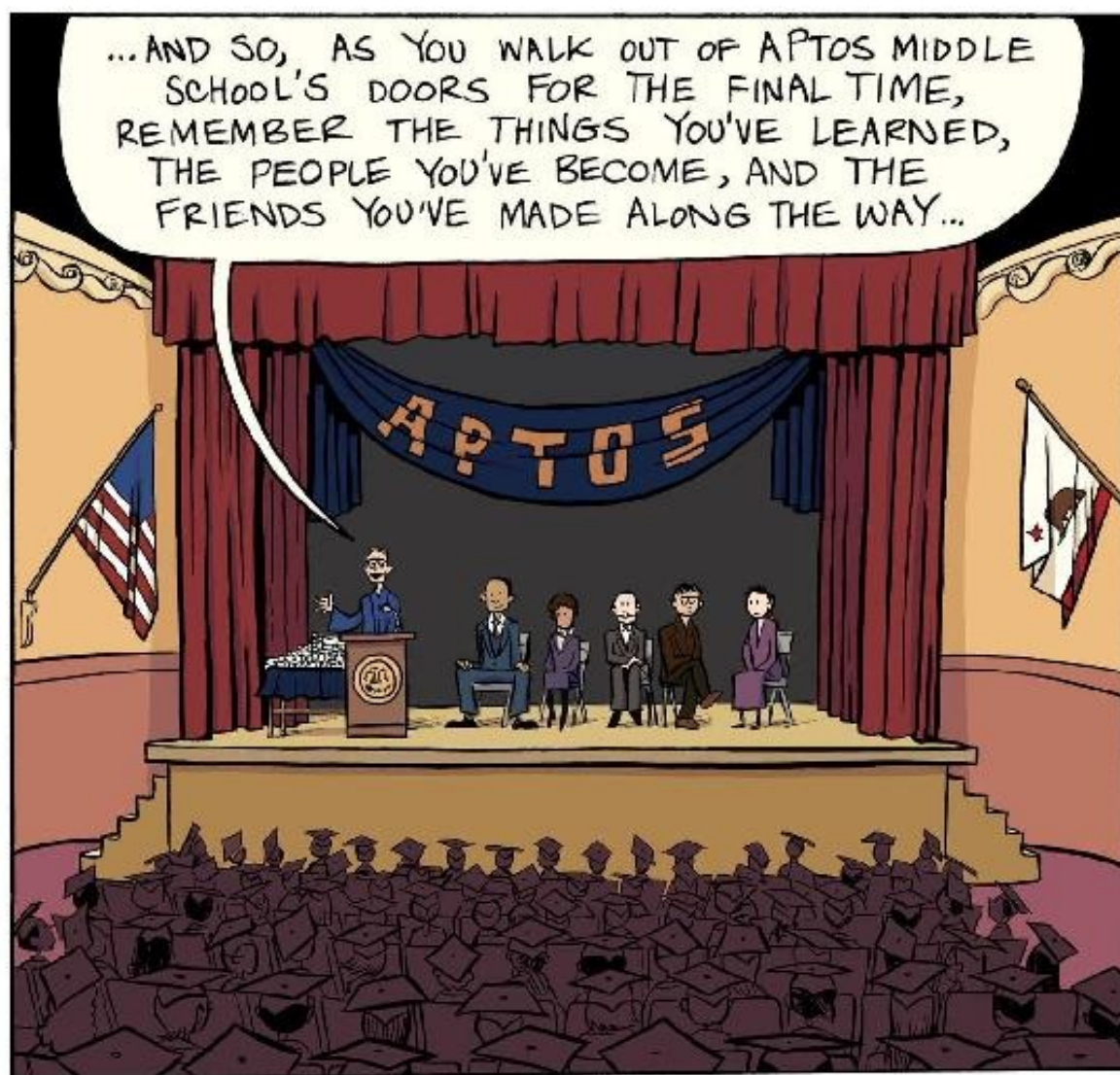








CHAPTER SEVEN





That summer, I was a Girl Scout camp counselor for the last time.



The cutest boy
I ever saw
was sipping
ciiiinder
through a
straw!

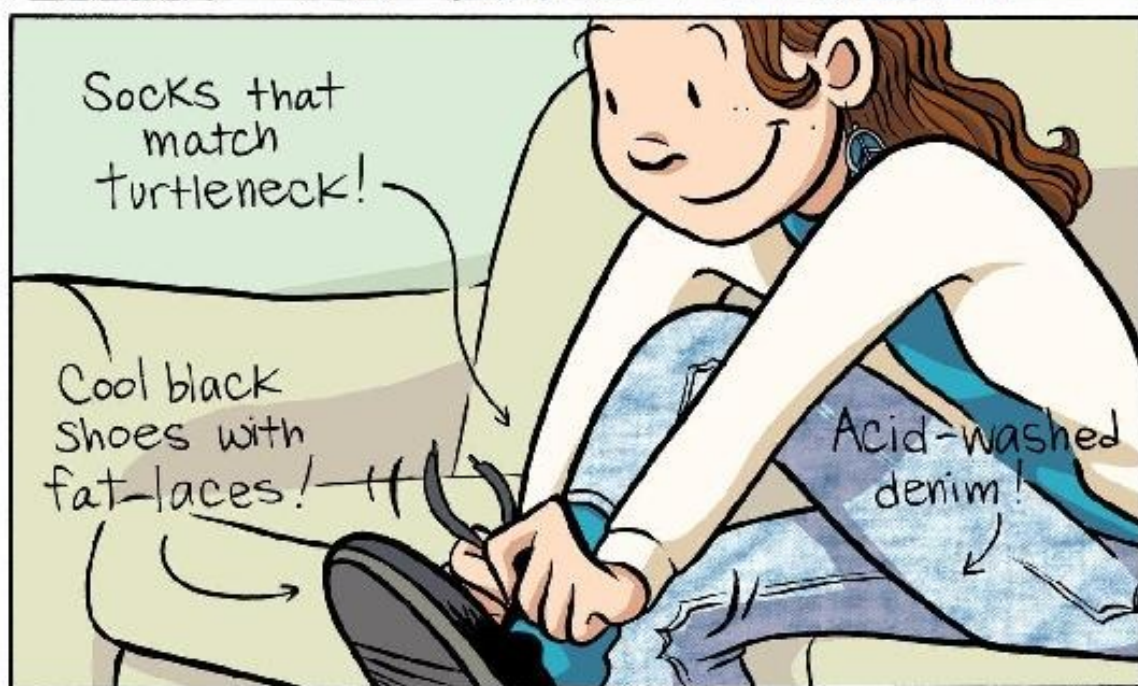
I also sat between my siblings in the car on a couple of long-distance road trips.



MOM!!
WILL'S TOUCHING
MY FOOT!!





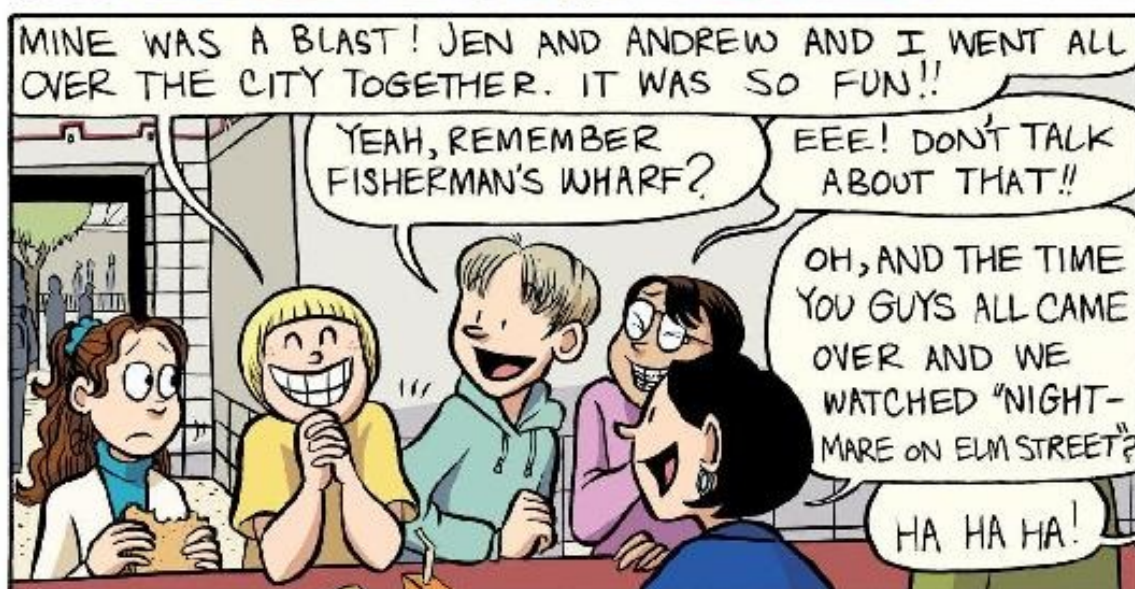




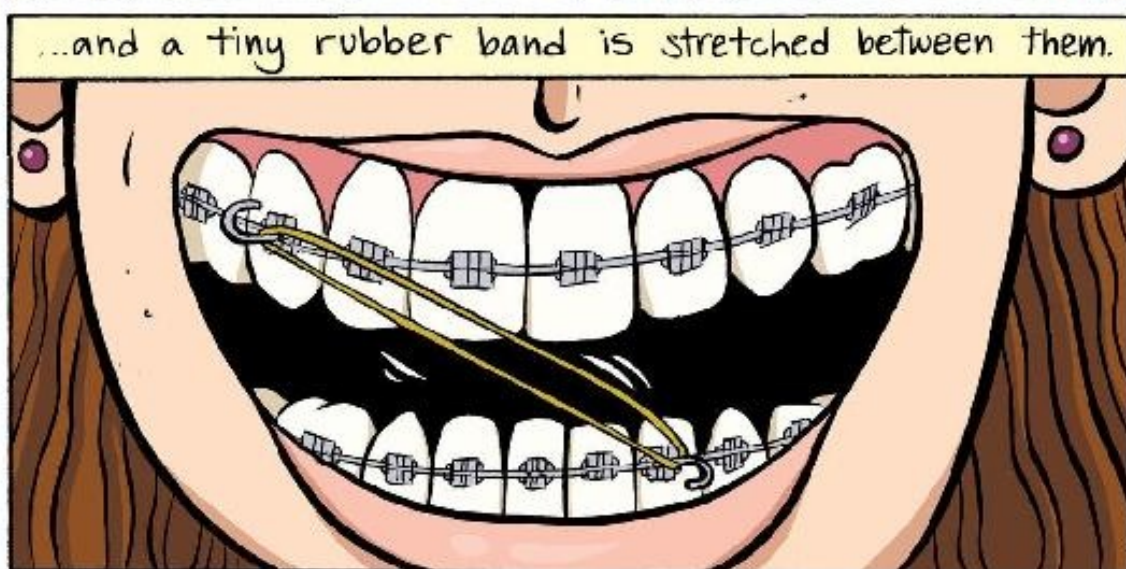
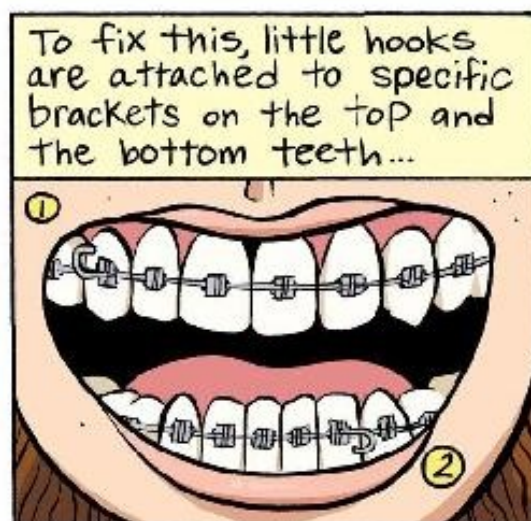
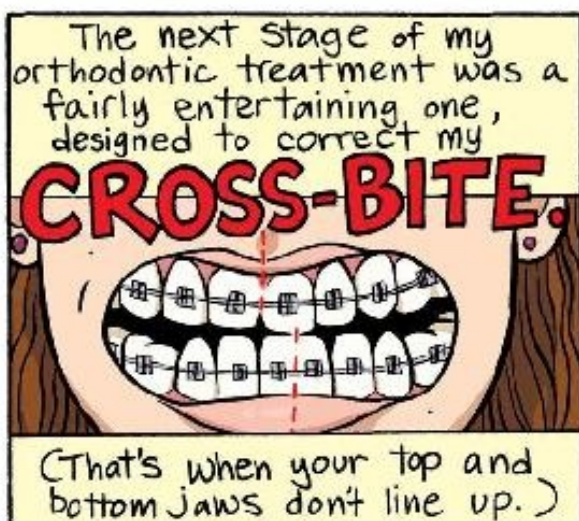












So, tiny rubber bands joined the contents of my backpack.



Along with travel toothbrush and paste, dental wax, floss, floss-threaders, a little box of toothpicks, and a tiny bottle of mouthwash.

It was quite the spectacle when I went to get a pencil or whatever.

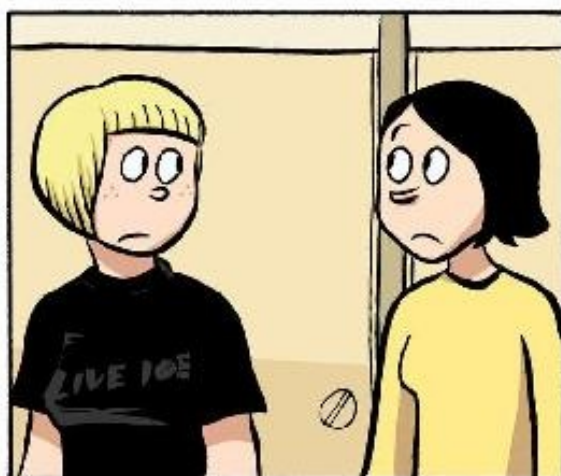
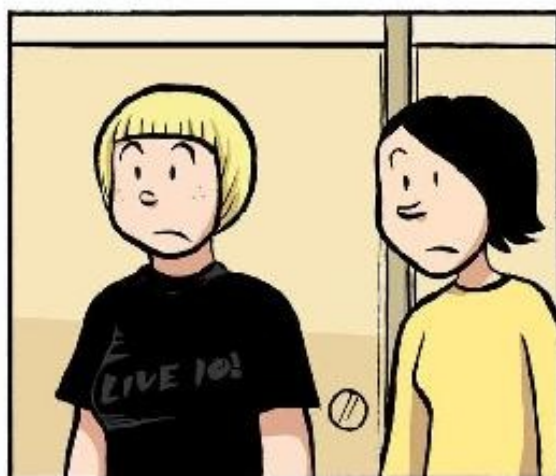




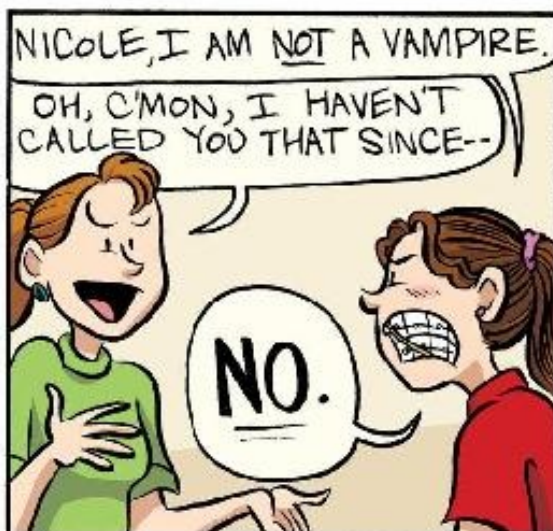


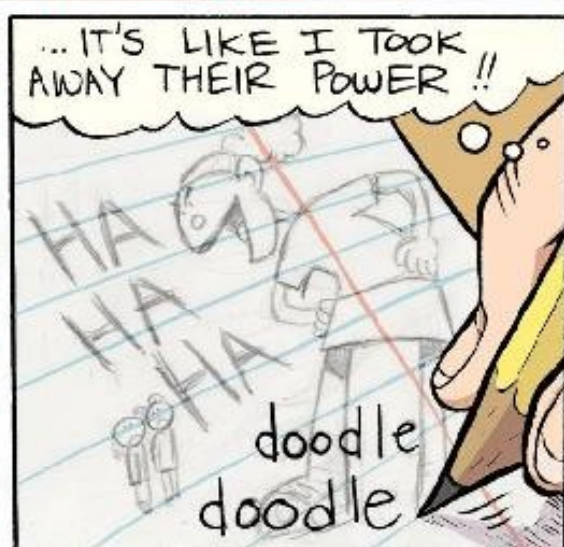












After that, I essentially "broke up" with my old group of friends.



It was an amicable split—we still said hello in the halls, and acknowledged our shared pasts.

HEY... DID YOU HEAR THAT OUR OLD ART TEACHER DIED?



MS. SHERF?
AW, THAT'S SAD.

I was a little lonely now and then, but it didn't bother me.

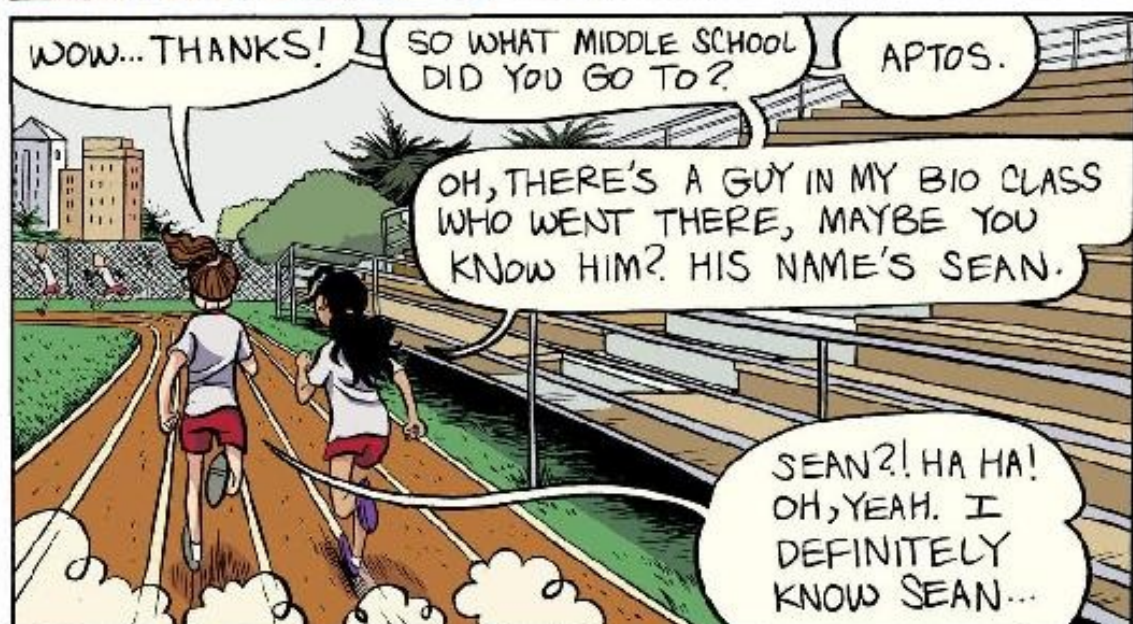


I was happy to take life at my very own pace.



HA HA!

AND I THOUGHT I WAS (GASP, PANT) THE ONLY SLOW RUNNER IN OUR CLASS!







CHAPTER EIGHT

High School was a lot more fun after I made new friends.



In fact, I was so busy and distracted ...



... I actually forgot about my teeth for awhile!







THEY DON'T LOOK THAT BAD! YOU'RE... JUST NOT USED TO THEM YET.



BUT THEY LOOK GREENISH! AND THEY'RE MISSHAPEN!



THAT STUPID RETAINER WITH THE PLASTIC TEETH ON IT WAS BETTER THAN **THIS!!**

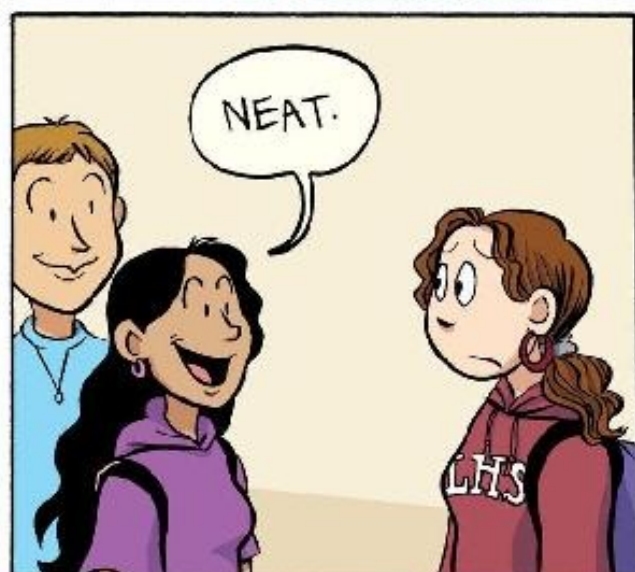
WE'VE DONE THE BEST WE COULD... CONSIDERING WE BASICALLY REARRANGED YOUR WHOLE MOUTH...



ANYWAY, I HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL CHEER YOU UP.











My life didn't magically turn perfect after that.



I didn't "get the guy," as they say. But Sean was always friendly to me.



Instead, I threw my passion into things I enjoyed, rather than feeling sorry for myself.



I realized that I had been letting the way I looked on the outside affect how I felt on the inside.



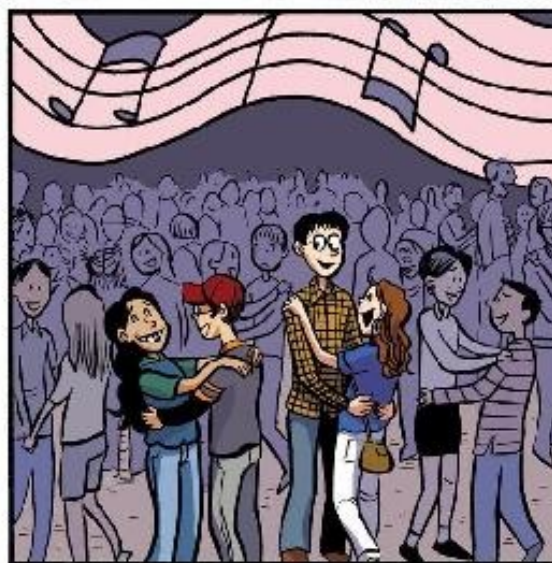
But the more I focused on my interests, the more it brought out things I liked about myself.



And that affected the way other people saw me!















The End!

Thanks to ...

First and foremost, Dave Roman, who makes me smile every day.

Mom, Dad, Amara, Will, and Grandma, for being good sports and a great family.

Lea Ada Franco (Hernandez), Joey Manley, and everyone at Grlamatic.com, for giving a home to this project in its infancy. My friend and family dentist, Dr. Anne Spiegel, who evaluated the manuscript and gave me great encouragement along the way. David Saylor and Cassandra Pelham, for being a joy to work with. Phil Falco, John Green, and Stephanie Yue, for helping make my work beautiful. Judy Hansen, for being the best agent I could hope to have.

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All of my friends who wrote me yearbook notes.

Everyone who has shared their own personal dental dramas with me.

The city of San Francisco, for giving me great backgrounds to draw!

Archwired.com, Janna Morishima, Heidi MacDonald, and Barbara Moon, for all their support and enthusiasm over the years.

Theresa Mendoza Pacheco, Marion Vitus, Steve Flack, Alison Wilgus, Zack Giallongo, Gina Gagliano, Bannister, Steve Hamaker, Seth Kushner, Neil Babra, and my extended family, wonderful friends, and readers, who have been invaluable.

Author's Note

I've been telling people about what happened to my teeth ever since I knocked them out in sixth grade. The story had plenty of strange twists and turns, and I found myself saying, "Wait, it gets worse!" a lot. Eventually, I realized I really needed to get it all down on paper.

I had been writing short-story comics for several years, and my tooth tale seemed like a good candidate for a longer narrative comic.

In 2004 I was invited to contribute to a comics-based Web site, *Girlamatic.com*, and decided to run *Smile* as a weekly Webcomic. This was at the same time I began working on *The Baby-sitters Club* graphic novels for Scholastic, so the two projects grew and evolved in tandem. By the time I completed the fourth BSC graphic novel, I had drawn, serialized, and posted over 120 pages of *Smile* on the Web!

As I wrote and drew the story, I was able to look back and actually laugh at some of my more painful experiences. What I went through with my teeth wasn't fun, but I lived to tell the tale and came out of it a stronger person. And once *Smile* started to receive reader feedback, I was amazed by how many people had dental stories similar to my own! The process of creating *Smile* has been therapeutic for me, and has also put me in touch with hundreds of kindred spirits. For this I am very grateful.

Even though my smile looks normal now, it's very possible I'll face more dental drama in the future. Amazingly, I'm not afraid of dentists, or dental work. I have a lot of faith and trust in dentistry, and how it can improve people's lives. And on the bright side of things, beyond the work I've had done on my front teeth, I haven't had a cavity since I was six!

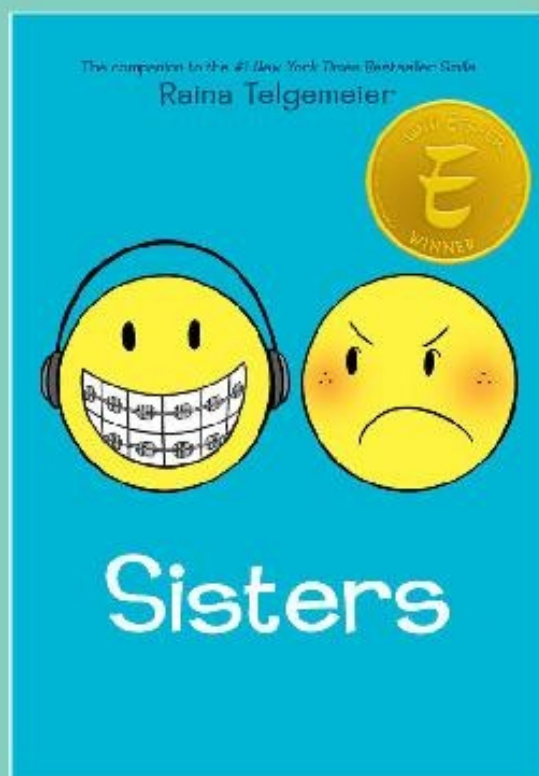
Thanks so much for reading.

-Raina

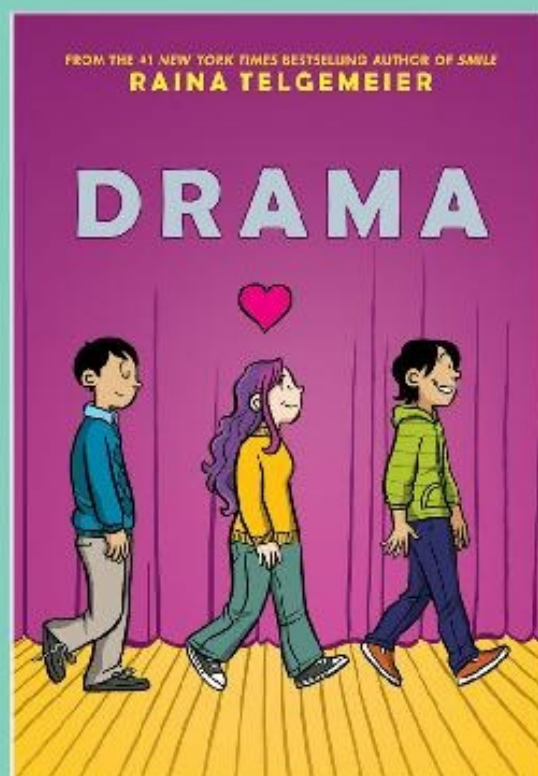


Raina Telgemeier is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling, multiple Eisner Award-winning creator of *Smile* and *Sisters*, which are both graphic memoirs based on her childhood. She is also the creator of *Drama*, which was named a Stonewall Honor Book and was selected for YALSA's Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens. Raina lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. To learn more, visit her online at www.goRaina.com.

Also by
Raina Telgemeier



Raina can't wait to be a big sister. Amara is cute, but she's also cranky and mostly prefers to play by herself. Their relationship doesn't improve much over the years, but they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all!



Callie is the set designer for her middle school's spring musical, and is determined to create a set worthy of Broadway. But between the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen, it's going to be a long way until opening night!